



Utilization of E Resources by Faculty Members and Research Scholars in Management Institutions Affiliated to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore: A Study

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ABSTRACT

In this paper an attempt has been made to describe a survey of the utilization of information e resources by the faculty members and research scholars as the users of various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University. A questionnaire method is used to identify the impressions of faculty members and research scholars towards the awareness of library services, adequate of library e resources, and their views on library services. This paper also examines the satisfaction levels of users about e resources, on line database, etc., and services provided by the library. Further an attempt has also been made to highlight the findings of the study and conclusion have based on the analysis of the data.

KEYWORDS

Utilization, Faculty Members, Research Scholars, E-resources, Indian Consortium, Online database

Introduction

With the rapid development of technology and emergence of internet, electronic publishing is getting a tremendous impetus from the publishing industry as well as libraries and information centres. E-books, E-journals, E-Magazines, E-conferences, etc. are the leading e resources and exerting a dominant pressure on the publishing world and paving the way to the transition from print to electronic media. The rapid changes that took place in the information and communication technology have stretched too far into all walks of life. Library and information centres are no exception to this. There is a noticeable change in the management libraries, which also bring the user to adopt new methods and techniques. All these compel to switch over to different modern techniques in the area of information storage retrieval and dissemination. At the turn of the century almost all disciplines have dramatically shifted away from traditional mode to a new scenario, along with the users.¹ This is noticeable very distinctly in the management facilities especially in the various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University.

Definition of e-resource:

An electronic resource is any information source that the library provides access to in an electronic format. The library has purchased subscriptions to many electronic nformation resources in order to provide you with access to them free of charge. Our E-Resources include lots of things: full-text journals, newspaper, company information, e-books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, economic data, digital images, industry profiles, market research, career information, etc. ² (ask a librarian)

An "electronic resource" is defined as any work encoded and made available for access through the use of a computer. It includes electronic data available by (1) remote access and (2) direct access (fixed media). In other words: Remote access (electronic resources) refers to the use of electronic resources via computer networks (AACR2, 2002 edition; glossary). Direct Access (electronic resources) refers to the use of electronic resources via carriers (e.g., discs/disks, cassettes, cartridges) designed to be inserted into a computerized device or its auxiliary equipment.³ (Library of congress)

Electronic resources represent an increasingly important component of the collection building activities of libraries. "Electronic resources" refer to those materials that require comput-

er access, whether through a personal computer, mainframe, or handheld mobile device. They may either be accessed remotely via the Internet or locally. Some of the most frequently encountered types are: E-journals, E-books, Full-text (aggregated) databases, Indexing and abstracting databases Reference databases (biographies, dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, etc.) Numeric and statistical databases, E-images, E-audio/visual resources. ⁴ (International Federation of Library Association)

Literature review

A careful review of literature discloses that, many investigations have already been carried out to study the use of internet and e-resources in India and abroad by the faculty members, students and research scholars of different academic institutions from time to time. On the basis of the available literature, the design of the present research was made.

Mallikarjun, presented the result of a study on the usage of internet by students and research scholars of Karnatak university library. The findings revealed that the respondents 46.46% are using online databases, 44.44% are using for company profile, 37.78% are making use of internet for accessing electronics journals, 26.89% are using internet for web based OPAC, 13.33% are for published files, and 8.88% respondents use internet for discussion forum. Also majority of the respondents use internet to keep abreast with the research and academic purpose.⁵

A study conducted by Vasappa Gowda on the awareness and use of library facilities and services by the research scholars in the university in Karnataka, indicated that majority of the respondents are aware of the "UGC-INFONET facility". The discipline wise responses show that about 55% humanities 65% of social science and more than 80% of science respondents are aware of this facility.⁶

Sunil kumar studied the use of e-resources by the faculty members with special reference to CVRCE, Bhubaneswar, indicating that the faculty members are heavily dependent on e-resources for their required information and to keep themselves up-to-date in their subject area. Though some expects that the role of libraries as a gateway to the e-resources will have less important in future as faculty members access more and e-resources in their respective departments or personal desktop/laptop, it seems to be more hypothetical.⁷

Use of digital resources by faculty and research scholars of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, was conducted by Thanuskodi. This survey indicates that most of the faculty members and research scholars (67.14 per cent) were familiar with the use of digital resources. Also majority of the faculty members and research scholars (64.28 per cent) were using digital resources for research purpose.⁸

Bulu provided a study on the use of internet and e-resources by the students of business management: a survey of P.G students of business administration, Sambalpur University, India. Most of the students are in favor of the internet that it is time saving, less expensive, more information, more preferred, highly useful and inevitable for management education as well as research practices.⁹

Purnima devi Examined the internet users: a study of Manipur university library. The study was concluded that Research scholars should be motivated to use the internet resources for their research purposes. Supervisors should also encourage their research scholars to use internet sources rather than relying on printed sources alone.¹⁰

Sugunavathy provided a study on knowledge management in academic libraries. In his study says that due to impact of globalization, economic competition and revolutions of ICT, the libraries are under going tremendous changes. ICT tools and techniques, knowledge management systems, internet, web resources, digital libraries have made significant changes in the existing library systems and services.¹¹

Information needs of faculty members and research scholars

Most important duty of college faculty members is classroom teaching. The faculty members needs timely and continuous information services related to teaching. Information needs of faculty members are typically different from other professional groups due to several reasons. Faculty members are working in an environment different from other types of teachers (e.g. University teachers, school teachers and elementary level teachers). Here the role of the faculty members is that of a subject specialist. The different components like class room lecture, field work, laboratory, library and other external media must be introduced before the student. The faculty members is expected to be a subject specialist, leader of the students in extra curricular activities, guide in research oriented projects, a source of inspiration, personal guide and a respected friend and evaluator for the student community.¹²

Research scholar means a scholar registered for Ph.D. or doing research project work and other research activities in college/ university. Research is the second most important activity that a college teacher, research scholar is supposed to undertake. Research is an outcome of original thinking and study related to a particular micro subject or topic. There are different types of research activity.

Purpose of the Study:

The aim of the present study is to make analytical study of information needs and utilization pattern of faculty members and research scholars of various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University.

Statement of the problem

The present study aims at evaluating the e resources utilization behavior among the faculty members and research scholars in various management institution affiliated to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. This study aims at analyzing the extent of utilization of e resources and on line database for teaching and research purpose. The electronic resources must support the curricular and researcher needs of the university. There should be a target audience and an expected level of use. An analysis of frequency of using e resources is an important aspect of impact of internet on teaching and research purpose among the faculty members and research scholars. It is significant to analysis the motivating factors behind the application

of internet and e resources for teaching and research purpose, and also the problems, barriers and obstacles in the application of electronic research in teaching and research. It is also pertinent to examine the management institution in support and assistance in the application of internet and e resources to teaching and research.

Objectives of the study

1. To identify the purpose utilization of e resources by the faculty members and research scholars.
2. To assess users satisfaction with regard to e-resources and services.
3. To find out the problems they encounter, and
4. To suggest some measures to improve the use of e resources based services.

Profile of Bharathiar University

The Bharathiar University was established in Coimbatore by the Government of Tamil Nadu, in February 1982, under the provision of the Bharathiar University Act 1918, and the Tamil Nadu Act of 1982, with jurisdiction over the revenue districts of Coimbatore, Erode and The Nilgiris. The postgraduate departments of the Madras University, which were functioning at that time, formed the nucleus of the Bharathiar University. The University was accorded recognition by the University Grants Commission, for the purpose of award of Grants in May 1985. The main objectives of this University are, to engage itself in the national task of imparting the necessary knowledge and skills to the youth of this country and make them achieve the great value on which our society is founded and enable them to contribute effectively towards the establishment of an egalitarian society based on social justice and economic parity. The university is situated at the foothill of Marudhamalai, a mountain that forms part of the western Ghat range, in a sprawling campus of one thousand acres, fifteen kilometers from the city of Coimbatore. Total 28 various Management Institutes under the control of this university.

Sources of Data:

Required data for the present study were collected from the faculty members and research scholars of various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University. The study is mainly based on the primary data collected from the faculty members and research scholars through a well designed questionnaire. In this process of collecting the data, faculty members and research scholars were interviewed personally to cover the gaps in the questionnaire and to clear doubts. Besides, the secondary data was collected from sources like text books, reference books national and international journals and magazines.

Scope of the study:

1. To study the information needs of faculty members and research scholars of various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University.
2. To understand the different use pattern followed by faculty members and research scholars of various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University.
3. To examine the different factors which facilities information/ sources/ services to the faculty members and research scholars of various management institution affiliated to Bharathiar University.
4. To identify the various channels through which information is accessed by faculty members and research scholars of various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University.
5. To identify the constraints faced by the faculty members and research scholars of various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University in using / searching information in libraries.

Limitation of the study

The study was confined to faculty members and research scholars in various management institution affiliated to Bharathiar University. User survey with the help of questionnaire was conducted only among the users available in the management insti-

tution during a few months forming part of calendar year 2013.

Sampling Procedure

Academic community of the university includes faculty members and research scholars, who are involved in teaching on the one hand and research activity on the other, all the faculty members and research scholars to various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University, were taken into consideration for the present study.

For the selection of faculty members and research scholars of various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University, the researcher used random sampling technique. A total number of 28 colleges affiliated to Bharathiar University. There are approximately 50 faculty members of which 50 are research scholars working in the institution affiliated to Bharathiar University. Out of these 100, faculty members and research scholars were selected for the present study.

Data Collection

The relevant data were from the faculty and research scholars of the different management institutions by employing questionnaire methods. The respondents were encouraged to give free and frank information. The respondents extended their full co-operation in data collection.

Methodology

This study aims at analyzing the e resources use behavior among the faculty members and research scholars of various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University Coimbatore. The effectiveness of the availability and accessibility of e resources and services can be assessed from the point of view of faculty members and research scholars' respondents. In this study, factors determining the utilization of internet and e resources can be identified under exploratory research framework. Here the respondents' socioeconomic background is correlated with their pattern of utilization of e resources and online database and services from the point of view of analysis framework.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The Data collected from the responded were analyzed through SPSS version 16 software using statistical techniques such as presentation of frequency and contingency tables and percentages the analysis and interpretation of data as follows.

Table – 1, Library visit

Sources	Faculty Members	Research Scholars	Total
Daily	22	24	46
Three times in a week	13	10	23
Twice in a week	5	9	14
Once in a week	10	5	15
As and when required	0	2	2
Total	50	50	100 (100)

Table 1 shows the frequency of visit to the library by the faculty members and research scholars from various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University. The result indicates that out of 50 faculty members, 22% faculty members visited daily; 13% visited three times in a week; and 10% visited once in a week. Whereas out of 50 research scholars 24% visited daily; 10% three times in a week 9% visited twice in a week; 5% one in a week and 2% visited as and when required the library.

Table – 2, Opinion regarding access e- resources

Category	Faculty members	Research Scholar	Total
Always	6	7	13
Often	10	10	20
Occasionally	21	19	40

Rarely	9	11	20
Never	4	3	7
Total	50	50	100 (100)

It is observed from above table 2, (21%) of the faculty members said occasionally access e resources; followed by (10%) were refer often; (9%) were rarely; (6%) were always and only (4%) were said never. It is also observed from the above table that about (19%) of the research scholars access e-resources occasionally, followed by (11%) of the research scholars refer rarely; (10%) of the research scholars accessed often (7%) of the research scholars access always and only (3%) of the research scholars were never access e resources.

Table – 3, Opinion regarding library collections

Resources	Very Good		Good		Average		Poor		Very Poor	
	FM	RS	FM	RS	FM	RS	FM	RS	FM	RS
Internet	10	6	25	25	9	16	6	2	0	1
E journals	9	3	23	22	12	18	6	6	-	1
CD ROM Database	3	-	9	10	23	23	14	16	1	1
Online database	8	3	21	23	14	19	6	4	1	1

Table 3, shows users were asked to get their opinion about the library collections. The result indicates out of 100 respondents 25% of the faculty members were said good; 10% were said very good, regarding the internet facilities available in the library. The study among the research scholars 25% were said good and 16% average.

Regarding e-resources 23% of the faculty members said good and 12% were said average. It is also opinion regarding the research scholars 22% said good and 18% said average. The result indicated that CD ROM database collection available in the library. 23% of the faculty members said average and 14% were said poor. It is also observed 23% of the research scholar said average and 16% were said poor. 21% percent of the faculty members' opinion regarding the online database said good; 14% were said average. It is also observed 23% of the research scholar said good and 19% were said average.

Table 4, Purpose of utilization

Sources	Faculty Members	Research Scholars	Total	Rank
Study	6	7	13	4
Research	15	27	42	1
General information	19	5	24	2
Communication	7	8	15	3
Others	3	3	6	5
Total	50	50	100	

Table 4, gives a detailed picture of distribution of the purpose of e-resource utilization. The data were analysed based on the 5 items listed in the questionnaires. The result indicates that out of 5 listed items, to research which presents the distribution of information need and purpose of internet usage for the respondents in their academic activities. The data were analysed based on the 5 items listed in the questionnaire. The result indicates that out of 5 listed items to research which accounts for (42%) percent was the main utilization of e-resources followed by general information 24%, communication 15% study 13% and others 6%.

Table – 5, Adequacy of Internet Connection

	Always	Some times	Total
Faculty Members	38	12	(50)
Research Scholars	29	21	(50)
			100 (100)

The distribution of faculty members and research scholar indicating the adequacy of internet connection is shown in table 5. It is evident that 38% percent of the faculty members and 29% percent research scholar indicated that the internet connection was always adequate. It is also opinion regarding the faculty members research scholars 12 % and 21% research scholars were said some times for internet connection, Table 5.

Table – 6, Opinion regarding the place of access e-resources

Sources	Faculty Members	Research Scholars	Total
College Library	11	20	(31) 1
College Computer Laboratory	16	10	(26) 2
Browsing center	11	5	(16) 4
Home	9	8	(17) 3
Others	3	7	(10) 5
	50	50	100

Table 6 shows an analysis was carried out of study the mode of acquiring the required information by the faculty members and research scholars. The result, as shown in table, reveals that out of 100 faculty members and research scholars of various management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University, 31% get the required information from their respective college library while 26% acquire through college lab 17 % by Home 16 % from browsing centre and 10 % get the required information from others sources.

Table 7, Utilization of Indian e resources consortium

E-Resources	Highly Satisfied		Satisfied		Neutral		Dissatisfied		Highly Dissatisfied	
	Fm	Rs	Fm	Rs	Fm	Rs	Fm	Rs	Fm	Rs
Delnet	2	5	9	8	22	17	13	14	4	6
Inflibnet (N-List)	3	6	4	11	21	12	13	11	9	10
Iim Consortium	1	2	2	2	13	14	24	15	10	17

The above table 7 shows that 22% of the faculty members' utilization of Indian e resources consortium neutral and 13% were dissatisfied with utilization the above facilities. It is also 17% of the research scholars said utilization the Indian e resources consortium neutral and 14 % were dissatisfied.

N- List (Information and library network) is the one of the very good online resources for faculty and research scholars. 21% of the faculty members said neutral and 13% were dissatisfied. It is also 12% of the research scholars said neutral and 13% were dissatisfied.

IIM Consortium (Indian Institute of Management) users were asked to get their utilization about the IIM consortium. 13% of the faculty members neutral opted and 24% were dissatisfied. It is also 14% research scholars neutral and 15% were dissatisfied.

Table – 8, Utilization of online databases

Online Database	Highly Satisfied		Satisfied		Neutral		Dissatisfied		Highly Dissatisfied	
	FM	RS	FM	RS	FM	RS	FM	RS	FM	RS
EBSCO	11	15	13	10	14	13	10	8	2	4

Emerald	1	3	8	12	16	16	15	11	10	8
ProQuest	3	9	3	11	20	15	13	8	11	7
J-Gate	4	5	7	10	20	13	9	13	10	9
Capitaline	5	3	4	5	14	15	12	13	15	14
Elsevier	2	4	2	7	12	11	18	14	16	14
DOAJ	4	5	6	8	15	9	13	11	12	17

Online database is a most important e resources tool for faculty members and research scholars. The above table 8 shows that majority of the faculty members 14 % use EBSCO 16 % faculty members use Emerald 20 % use Proquest 20 % J-Gate 15 % Capitaline 18 % Elsevier and 15 % and use DOAJ. It is also observed that the majority of the research scholars 15 % use EBSCO 16 % research scholars use Emerald 15 % use Proquest 13 % J-Gate 15 % Capitaline 14 % Elsevier and 17% use DOAJ .

Table – 9, Problem faced while using digital resources

S. No	Particulars	Always 5		Often 4		Occasionally 3		Rarely 2		Never 1	
		FM	RS	FM	RS	FM	RS	FM	RS	FM	RS
1	Power failures	3	0	8	13	11	13	16	11	12	13
2	Difficulties to organizing digital resources	2	1	12	8	16	19	15	12	5	10
3	Lack of high speed internet connection	2	3	11	11	15	16	17	13	5	7
4	Information is scattered in too many sources	2	2	11	12	16	15	17	13	4	8
5	Required information is not available	2	5	5	6	15	14	21	17	7	8
6	Information explosion (too much Information)	0	2	6	6	17	16	19	17	8	9
7	Lack of training in e- resources / database	2	5	13	8	21	16	12	13	2	8
8	Difficulty in location of all online materials	3	4	6	9	22	13	14	13	3	13
9	Lack of time using digital resources	2	3	9	8	19	13	17	16	3	10
10	Lack of library trained human resources	2	4	9	8	12	12	15	16	12	10
11	Lack of infrastructure facilities in library	0	6	6	8	15	9	19	19	10	8

Due to information explosion, majority of the information seekers face a lot of problems in getting right information. In this regard, an attempt has been made to analyse the problems faced by the faculty members and research scholars in resources utilization for their research and academic activities. The results of the analysis have been presented in Table 9. The data were analysed based on the 11 problems listed in the questionnaire. The result indicates that out of 11 listed problems, majority of the problem faced by the faculty members and research scholars are occasionally and rarely. It is also clear that the faculty members and research scholars are not facing always problem for their access e resources.

Findings from the study

Based on the analysis of data, the following findings and suggestion are made to improve the usage of e resources among the faculty members and research scholars.

1. Most of the faculty members and research scholars (46%) were familiar with the use of e resources.
2. About (40%) of the faculty members and research scholars were access e resources occasionally.
3. Majority of the faculty member and research scholars (25%) were utilize internet facilities.
4. Majority of the faculty members and research scholars (42%) were utilize the e resources for research work.
5. Majority of the faculty members and research scholars (31%) were get the require information from respective college library.
6. Majority of the faculty members and research scholars utilize the Indian e resources consortium neutrally.
7. Majority of the faculty members 14% were use EBSCO, 16% Emerald 20 %, Proquest, 20% J-Gate 15% Capitaline 18% Elsevier and 15% and use DOAJ. It is also observed that the majority of the research scholars 15 % were use EBSCO, 16 % Emerald, 15 % Proquest, 13 % J-Gate 15 % Capitaline 14 % Elsevier and 17% use DOAJ.
8. Majority of the problem faced by the faculty members and research scholars are occasionally and rarely. It is also clear that the faculty members and research scholars are not facing always problem for their access e resources.

Conclusion

In the present study that investigators have made an attempt to know the research scholars awareness and use of various facilities and services available in the university libraries in Bha-rahtiar University. Further an attempt was made to measure the satisfaction level of the research scholars towards facilities and services. The study revealed that regardless of discipline, the research scholars held consistently low perception on the

facilities and services. There was mismatch between the priorities and the facilities and services available in the university libraries. The universities libraries have to up grade their facilities and services that match their needs. There should be a need for comfortable physical facilities and also research guide section in the libraries to facilitate researchers. The information literacy training is to be organized regular interval and the UGC INFONET needs to expand the coverage of the e-resources particular useful for humanities and social science dissilience.

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