Utilization of E-Resources by Students of Medical Colleges in Tumkur District Karnataka: Study

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Abstract:

In this study examined the preferences of the students toward printed books and journals, electronic information resources, and pattern of using e-resources. Non-probability sampling specially accidental and purposive technique was applied in the collection of primary data through administration of user questionnaire. The sample respondents chosen for the study consists of senior students. The findings of the study reveal the personal experiences and perceptions they have had on practice and research activity using e-resource. The major findings indicate that of the total anticipated participants.

Key words: E-resources, College libraries, students, internet

Introduction:

E-resources refer to that information which requires computer access and that may either be locally accessed or accessed remotely through the internet. All the university libraries are members of different consortia which provide a series of online databases and e-journal service: This covers both free internet resources and electronic resources purchased or licensed by the libraries from either commercial or from nonprofit making organization.

Swain and Panda (2009) conducted a study on use of electronic resources in business school. The purpose of the study was to look at the prolific growth of electronic resources. This survey attempts to measure the quantum of e-resources accessed in the academic ambience of business school libraries in Orissa. More over the study attempts to examine what extend electronic information service are offered to users of business school libraries in the state with an opinion poll of the librarians of the business schools. Furthermore the study aims to highlight problems and constraints faced by the information professionals in accessing e-resources and delivering electronic information services.

Tumkur, officially renamed Tumakuru in 2014, is an industrial city located in the state of Karnataka. Since 28 August 2010, Tumakuru has been accorded the status of a City Corporation. It is situated at a distance of 70 kilometers northwest of Bengaluru, along National Highway NH4 and NH206. It is the headquarters of the Tumakuru district. Tumakuru plays host for India's first mega food park which is a project of the ministry of food processing. The *India Food Park* was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2014. Tumakuru was officially included in the *Smart Cities* project of the central government in August 2015 and was declared a smart-city.

Medical Colleges in Tumkur

Medical colleges are functioning throughout Tumkur. Starting with 01 college in 1963-64 by the Siddhartha Medical colleges, now the number has raised to 2. In Karnataka, there are 41 Medical colleges functioning in the entire 30 revenue district.

Objectives:

The objectives of the studies are.

1. To suggest ways and mean for maximizing use of electronic information resources by the faculty members in first grade college libraries.
2. To ascertain user's sources of information about e-resources and duration of awareness about e-resources.
3. To find out frequency usage pf e-resources.
4. To find out various types of electronic resources by the faculty members.
5. To find out the methods used to improve skills for better use of e-resources.
6. To examine the need for conduction user awareness programme in using e-resources.

Limitations, Scope and Methodology of the study

There are 30 revenue districts in the state of Karnataka. 41 Medical colleges are functioning in all districts. The study focuses on senior students. Total population of the study will be 73. In this study questionnaire method was used to collect necessary data keeping in view the objective of the study. The primary data was collected by administering the questionnaires.

Data Analysis and Discussion:

- Computer Literacy of teachers

Libraries	Above Average	Below average	Average
Students	51(69.86)	22(30.13)	73(100%)

According to their own assessment, a majority (100%) of the respondents stated that, they are having "average skill" in the use of computers,69.86% respondents having 'above average skills' and 30.14% of the respondents (opined that they have "below average skill" in the use of computers.

- What are the types of services use in library?

Library services	Total N=73
Lending service	73(100%)
Reference	73(100%)
Internet facilities	71(97.26%)
Online database	29(39.72%)
E journals	51(69.86)
Scan/Xerox/print out	73(100%)

The analysis shows that all the students belonging to the libraries preferred the use of Lending service, Reference services scan/Xerox/ printout services as well as internet facilities.

- Purpose of using e-resources

Purpose	Total N=73
Subject information	51(69.86%)

Teaching related	59(80.82%)
E journals	71(97.26%)
To contact professor	29(39.72%)
To search conferences	56(76.71%)
For Research	73(100%)

Above table indicates the purpose of using the electronic information resources. The analysis shows that all the students belonging to the college libraries used electronic information resources to consult subject indexes and compendia, monographs, teaching-related online databases, teaching-related e-journals, and the Internet sources—especially those presented by teaching aids, to contact professor representatives/experts to consult literature and standards.

Indicate the Windows application that they used.

The respondents were asked to indicate the Windows application that they used. A significant portion of the teachers belonging to the college libraries used Windows 48 (65.75%), which was followed by Windows XP 14(19.57%) 7(9.58%) 4(5.47%) use.

Purpose	Total N=73
Windows 2000	4(5.47%)
Windows XP	14(19.57%)
Windows7	48(65.75%)
Windows vista	7(9.58%)

- Indicate the Internet browsers they used to access E-resources.

Internet browsers	Total N=73
Internet explorer	63(86.31%)
Google chrome	14(19.57%)
Mozilla Firefox	7(9.58%)

The respondents were asked to indicate the Internet browsers they used to access electronic information resources. A significant portion of the students belonging to the college libraries used Internet Explorer 63(86.31%) 14(19.57%) and 14(19.57%).

- Indicate the usage patterns of electronic information resources.

Use Patterns	Response	%
Download and save the contents in computer hard disk	31	42.47%
Download in removable storage media(Pen drive)	57	78.08%
Tale print out of the contents	43	58.90%

- Impact of e-Resources on Quality of Research

Retrieval performance	Colleges
excellent	73(100%)
good	0%
fair	0%
Not good	0%

Table shows reveals the retrieval performance of e-resources at the college libraries. All the students belonging to the college libraries stated that the retrieval performance of electronic information resources was excellent.

- The benefit of e-resources to the students.

Retrieval performance	Total N=73
Reading	34(46.57%)
E-resources	16(21.91%)
Special collections	17(23.28%)
Research	73(100%)
Keeping up to date	73(100%)
Timely access	73(100%)

Another question sought to ascertain the benefit e-resources on the students. The analysis shows that all the teachers stated that the electronic information resources helps in evidence-based research, keeping up to date in specified areas and its timely access

User's perception	Total N=73
Electronic information resources have become a substitute for printed sources to a very high extent	73(100%)
Electronic information resource have become a substitute for printed sources to a medium extent	5(6.84%)
Printed materials are still the basic element in satisfying information needs, so to a small extent electronic information resources have become substitute printed materials	40(54.79%)

Another question that sought to ascertain the impact of all e-resources on the students was the extent to which they were replacing printed media in satisfying their information needs. The analysis shows that all the students stated that to a very high extent, electronic information resources have become a substitute for printed materials. While a significant portion of the teachers belonging to the concerned college libraries stated that printed materials are still the basic element in satisfying information needs, to a small extent, electronic information resources have become substitute for printed materials.

Findings

- ✓ The statistical analysis shows that all the students belonging to the college libraries utilize e-journals, online databases, Internet facility, CD-ROM databases, and the scan/Xerox/printout facilities provided by the library.
- ✓ The analysis shows that all the students belonging to the college libraries used electronic information resources to consult subject indexes and compendia, monographs, teaching-related online databases, teaching-related

e-journals, and the Internet sources—especially those presented by teaching aids, to contact professor representatives/experts to consult literature and standards.

✓ A significant portion of the students belonging to the college libraries used Windows 7 (68.42%, 64.52%, and 65.22%) which was followed by Windows XP (21.05%, 19.35%, and 17.39%.

✓ The Internet browsers they used to access electronic information resources. A significant portion of the teachers belonging to the college libraries used Internet Explorer.

✓ Effective use of electronic information resources for retrieving needed information will have a profound impact, especially on the quality of research output by the teachers.

Conclusion

College librarians should use new information technologies and new approaches to better serve their teachers in new ways of acquiring information. Libraries should organize their services so that they bring their information resources closer to the busy students. They should acquire new skills and learn how to organize information for presentation on the Internet portals or by handheld devices. Additional drive for college librarians in their efforts is the introduction of evidence-based practice. E-resources are an accepted means of information resources in the present information society; with the amount of new resources available, the need for adequate computer literacy and aptness in using the existing sources has become the need of the hour and the study reveals its impact in terms of awareness and effective use of the available resources by the students college libraries in Tumkur dist.

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