

Students' keeness on use of e-resources at Selected Medical College and Research Center in Bangalore:

A Study

by

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ABSTRACT:

The study examines the use of electronic resources and services by the students in Medical College Library. The study aimed at identifying the adequacy of electronic resources, purpose and frequency of using digital resources. The suggestion has been given to strengthen the e resources and services. Internet evolution is injecting more competition into publishing and giving power back student's in colleges. It presents new challenges for the students of the archive and could yet spell the end for many print documents.

Keywords: E- Resources, impact –ICT Roles students, internet,

Introduction:

Electronic publishing made its beginning in 1985 in Germany when the first electronic book was published. Since then, there has been a study growth in the number of publishers entering into the electronic publishing field. In the emerging Information Technology ruled knowledge economy of the 21st century e journals and E books are emerging as an imperative. One of the primary goals of library strategic plan is to change the way we serve the information needs of our users. This includes the changing techniques of library service delivery, delivering more services off-sites and expanding technology use, availability and complexity and complexity. The goal of librarians is to provide an effective combination of print, non-print, and electronic resources (Hers), and the integration of the use of these resources in support of research at the host institution.

The libraries therefore need to formulate a separate e-resource collection development policies to address these issues. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines in choosing to appropriate resources and establish consistency and priorities in managing this important part of the libraries' collection. The electronic services are changing library usage patterns; scientific libraries are spending an increasing percentage of their collections budget on electronic services.

The impact of altered usage patterns and increasing expenditures by college libraries on electronic services have heightened interest among scientific libraries to measure electronic services usage. The present study is confined to three college libraries (owned by state government) of Karnataka namely (a) Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) (b) Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) (c) M S Ramaiah Medical College (RMC).

Objectives:

1. To study the frequency and purpose of using e-resources.
2. To suggest/recommend the ways and means to improve the e-resources of medical college libraries.
3. To know the different types of e-resources and services available in the medical college Libraries.
4. To access the reason for using various e-resources.
5. –Use and impact of e-resources on the quality of research in selected medical college libraries.

Statement of Problem:

Medical college libraries have to develop a well-balanced document collection to meet the needs of present and future requirements of the users. It is possible only when the acquisition is planned. It is important for libraries to develop a collection of high standards to attract students and provide support for them to use e-resources effectively.

Scope of the study:

The scope of the proposed study is to examine the preferences of the students towards printed books and journals, electronic information resources, and pattern of using e-resources. This can be extended over to the other libraries. Detailed analysis can be taken to see the impact of technology on libraries and usage. The present study is confined to three Medical college libraries.

Methodology:

To meet the objectives of the study, a close-ended structured questionnaire method is used to collect the data. The collected data from questionnaires is analyzed with descriptive statistical methods. Data were collected from the three college libraries through structured questionnaires. The structured questionnaire was designed keeping in view the stated objectives consisting of various types of questions with the following aspects: types of e-resources, total collection/acquisition of e-resources, reasons for acquiring/subscribing e-resources, selection/recommendation of e-resources, method and mode of procurement of e-resources, promotion of e-resources, problems in e-resource

development, and future plans to improve the e-resources development. A total number of 50 self-administrated questionnaires were administered to the students of the three Medical college libraries Apart from these bar diagrams, pie charts, and tables are also used for representation of data.

Survey Result:

The status of respondents includes 19 students (26.03%) from BMCRI, 31 students (42.47%) from KIMS, and 23 students (31.50%) from RMC

Sample Population.

SL NO	COLLEGE NAME	NO OF Students	%
01	BMCRI	19	26.3
02	KIMS	31	42.47
03	RMC	23	31.50

Table 1.

Perceived Level of Computer Literacy of Students.

According to their own assessment, a majority (69.86%) of the respondents stated that they are having “average skill” in the use of computers, and 30.14% of the respondents (opined that they have “above average skill” in the use of computers. On the whole, respondents’ self-perceived ability to use the computer for electronic information sources is quite high.

Libraries	Average	Above average	Total
BMCRI	13(68.42%)	6(31.58%)	19(100%)
KIMS	21(67.74%)	10(32.26%)	31(100%)
RMC	17(73.91%)	6(26.09%)	23(100%)

Table 2.

Use of Library Services.

The respondents were asked to indicate the services utilized at the library and information center. The services provided by library and information center are depicted in [Table 3](#). The statistical analysis shows that all the students belonging to the Medical college libraries utilize e-journals, online databases, Internet facility, CD-ROM databases, and the scan/Xerox/printout facilities provided by the library.

Libraries	Usage of Internet
BMCRI	19(100%)
KIMS	31(100%)
RMC	23(100%)

Table 3.

Use of types of electronic information resources

To ascertain various demands, the respondents were asked to state their interest in the use of specific types of electronic information resources. Their responses are depicted in [Table 4](#). The analysis shows that all the students belonging to the libraries preferred the use of subject-topical website, e-journals, online databases, e-monographs, CD-ROM databases, and standards.

Library services	BMCRI	KIMS	RMC
Lending service	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
Reference	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
Internet facilities	17(73.91%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
Online database	13(68.42%)	10(32.26%)	6(26.09%)
E journals	21(67.74%)	21(67.74%)	17(73.91%)
Scan/xerox/print out	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)

Table 4.

Purpose of using e resources

The respondents were asked to give reasons as to why they use electronic information resources, but based on choices fixed by the students of Medical college libraries. Responses for the various professional purposes for which electronic information resources were used were elicited from the respondents. [Table 5](#) 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, 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.

Purpose	BMCRI	KIMS	RMC
Subject information	21(67.74%)	10(32.26%)	23(100%)
Teaching related	21(67.74%)	21(67.74%)	23(100%)
E journals	17(73.91%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
To contact professors	13(68.42%)	10(32.26%)	6(26.09%)
To conference	21(67.74%)	21(67.74%)	17(73.91%)
Internet sources	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)

Table 5.

Windows Applications in Pharmacopoeial Libraries.

The respondents were asked to indicate the Windows application that they used. 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%; see [Table 6](#).

Purpose	BMCRI	KIMS	RMC
Windows 2000	1(5.26%)	2(6.45%)	1(4.35%)
Windows XP	4(21.05%)	6(19.35%)	4(17.39%)
Windows7	13(68.42%)	20(64.52%)	15(65.22%)
Windows vista	1(5.26%)	3(9.68%)	3(13.04%)

Use of Internet Browsers in Libraries.

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 (89.47%, 87.09%, and 82.61%);

Internet browsers	BMCRI	KIMS	RMC
Internet explorer	17(89.47)	27(87.09)	19(82.61%)
Google chrome	1(5.26%)	1(3.23%)	2(8.69%)
Mozilla Firefox	1(5.26%)	3(9.68%)	2(8.69%)

Table 7.

Using Patterns of Electronic Information Resources.

The respondents were asked to indicate the usage patterns of electronic information resources. A significant portion of the respondents (78.08%) downloaded the contents in removable storage media, mostly into pen drive. A portion of the respondents (42.47%) downloaded to their computer hard disk, and some (58.90%) took a print out **Table 8**.

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 printout of the contents	43	58.90%

Retrieval Performance of e-Resources.

Table 9 reveals the retrieval performance of e-resources at the three Medical college libraries. All the students belonging to the college libraries stated that the retrieval performance of electronic information resources was excellent. (See [Table 9](#)).

Retrieval performance	BMCRI	KIMS	RMC
Excellent	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
Good	0%	0%	0%
Fair	0%	0%	0%
Not good	0%	0%	0%

Benefit of Electronic Information Resources.

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

Retrieval performance	BMCRI	KIMS	RMC
Reading	9(47.37%)	11(35.48%)	14(60.87%)
E-resources	5(26.32%)	7(22.58%)	4(17.39%)
Special collections	8(42.11%)	6(19.35%)	3(13.04%)
Research	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
Keeping up to date	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
Timely access	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)

Table 10.

User's Perception of e-Resources as a Replacement for Print in Meeting Their Information Needs.

Another question that sought to ascertain the impact of all e-resources of 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 a very high extent, electronic information resources have become a substitute for printed materials. While a significant portion of the students belonging to the concerned college libraries (57.89%, 54.84%, and 52.17%) stated that printed materials are still the basic element in satisfying information needs, to a small extent, electronic information resources have become substitutes for printed materials.

User's perception	BMCRI	KIMS	RMC
Electronic information resources have become a substitute for printed sources to a very high extent	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
Electronic information resource has become a substitute for printed sources to a medium extent	02(22.22%)	01(05.88%)	02(18.18%)
Printed materials are still the basic element in satisfying information needs, so to a small extent electronic information resources have become substitute printed materials	11(57.89%)	17(54.84%)	12(52.17%)

Table 11

Usage of e-resources in research.

Effective use of electronic information resources for retrieving needed information will have a profound impact, especially on the quality of research output of the students. The analysis shows that all the students belonging to the college libraries use e-resources.

Research	BMCRI	KIMS	RMC
Teaching	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
In monographs	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
Sample preparation	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)

Table 12

Impact of e-Resources on Quality of Research

Electronic information resources provide latest, comprehensive, and up-to-date information that is essential for research. The respondents were asked to indicate to what extent they feel the impact of e-resources on the quality of research. All the students belonging to the college libraries stated that the electronic information resources highly improved the quality of research pertaining to the specific subject field.

Impact of Research	BMCRI	KIMS	RMC
Highly improved	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
Improved	0%	0%	0%
Not improved	0%	0%	0%

Table 13.

Satisfaction Level of Access to Electronic Information Resources.

Respondents in this study were asked about the satisfaction with the current status of electronic information resource access in their library and information center, which is a very important variable to investigate user behavior. All the students belonging to the college libraries were highly satisfied with the usage of electronic information resources.

Satisfaction level	BMCRI	KIMS	RMC
Highly satisfied	19(100%)	31(100%)	23(100%)
Satisfied	0%	0%	0%
Moderately satisfied	0%	0%	0%
No comments	0%	0%	0%

Table 14.

Finding and Conclusion:

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 the aptness of 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 of selected government first grade college library in Tumkur dist.

Cost, the level of importance, and the use of e-resources have dramatically increased in the digital library environment; Web DB, e-book, e-journal, and other e-resources such as CD-ROM, DVD, and micro materials have become important sources in libraries.

College librarians should use new information technologies and new approaches to better serve their Students 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. Librarians can teach Students to search and critically evaluate information, thus helping in the process of their research. Librarians with experience in licensing and managing ERs are effective in rapidly diagnosing and remedying access problems.

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