



AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF E- RESOURCES BY STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AN ENGINEERING COLLEGE, COIMBATORE, TAMILNADU, INDIA- A CASE STUDY

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Abstract:

Purpose - To study and investigate the awareness and utilization of library electronic resources and related issues among svcs college of Engineering at Arasam Palayam Coimbatore.

Design/methodology/Approach - A descriptive method has been used in this research. A total of 400 questionnaires distributed but 290 were returned duly filled in as a sample. A well structured questionnaire was designed for collecting data from the chosen sample group.

Scope and limitations - The study covers the students from all departments and was limited to Engineering College only from SVS College of Engineering in Coimbatore.

Originality/value- The study aimed at identifying that needs and the level of awareness and utilization of the student community on networks such as internet and e- resources and the like. A study based on the same topic among various college and university and comparative study can be carried out.

Tools used- The collected data were obtained and analyzed using Simple Percentile analysis to generate tables and to arrive at conclusion.

Key Words: Library Resources, Information seeking, academic library, user survey, case study, E- Resources, Online Resources, Digital library, Web resources, SVSCE, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India.

Introduction:

In any educational or research institution, the library plays a pivotal role. SVS College of Engineering has well equipped and up-to-date library it supports almost all engineering, and Architecture studies areas taught in the college. It was founded in 2009 which is located at Arasam Palayam, Coimbatore District. In the year 2009, was recognized by Anna University (AU), Chennai. This engineering college is located in J.P Nagar near Arasam Palayam. We have with 7 U.G departments and 5 P.G departments under Anna University. The present strength of the students at SVSCE is about 2700. At this step the students ought to learn the various resources and services and how to utilize the information in right manner. Changes in technology in recent years have dramatically altered how information is accessed, stored and disseminated. Whereas information provision in academic libraries was previously based upon the collection of physical library materials, it is now increasingly the case that academic libraries are moving into the virtual arena. With advances in technology and e-publishing access to information on a local, regional, national and international basis, by overcoming the traditional barriers of time and space has become easy. Large amount of scholarly literature in the form of full-text journals, books, reports, etc., are published in electronic medium. Recognizing the fact that the use of ICT opens new avenues for better services in new found digital environment, the libraries in higher education are adapting to new technologies.

E- Resources and Services:

The electronic resources are systems in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and computer networks. These resources include OPAC, CD-ROMs, Online- Databases, E-journals E-books, Internet resources etc. Multiple accesses speed, richer in content, reuse, timeliness, anywhere access is some of the features of e-resources. IEEE Explore, Elsevier Science Direct, ASCE Journals, ASME Journals, EBSCO, Springer, etc. are the example of some famous e-resources available in India and overseas. These resources are paid resources and only accessible after payment. These resources are only limited access. These are available in so many different packages in different price ranges. In India, these resources are available through INDEST-AICTE consortium and UGC-INFONET consortium on some discounted prices.

Objectives of the Study:

The study was an attempt to find out the awareness and utilization of library electronic resources and services by the students of engineering college. The study was designed and conducted during the year 2010 to achieve the following objectives.

- ✓ To find out the awareness and uses of E- Resources by student community;
- ✓ To observe the type of e- resources by the student members;
- ✓ To find out the purpose of utilization of E- Resources;
- ✓ To find out the frequency of access to internet;
- ✓ To explore the impact of E- Resources;
- ✓ To find out the problems faced by the respondents while using resources.
- ✓ To suggest improvement measures based on the inferences drawn from the study.

Based on Gender wise Classification:

S.No	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	185	63.7
2	Female	105	36.3
Total		290	100.0

Table 1: Gender wise Classification

This table indicates that 185 (63.7 %) of the respondents are male and the remaining are female.

Based on Year- wise Classification:

S.No	Year of Students	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	1 st Years	43	14.8
2	2 nd Years	56	19.3
3	3 rd Years	89	30.7
4	4 th Years	102	35.2
Total		290	100.0

Table 2: Position wise Classification

Table 2 shows that the majority of 102 (35.2%) of respondents are 4th Years, followed by 89 (30.7%) of respondents are 3rd Years, 56 (19.3%) of respondents are 2nd Years and only 43 (14.8%) of respondents are 1st Years.

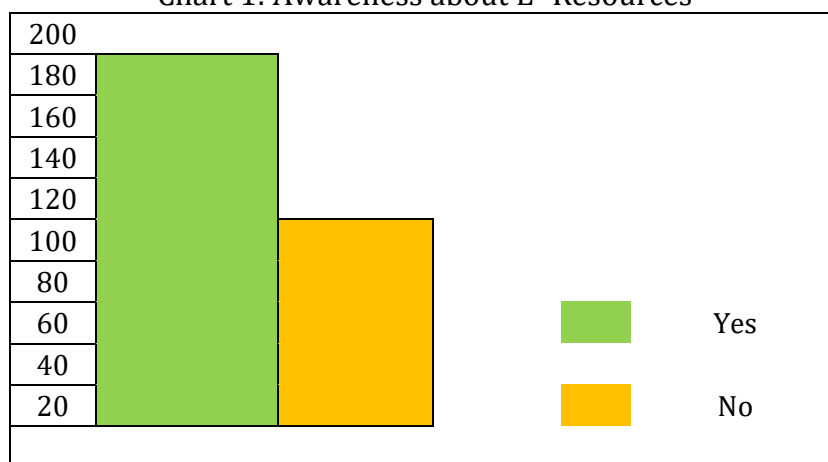
Based on awareness about E- Resources:

S.No	Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	182	62.8
2	No	108	37.2
Total		290	100.0

Table 3: Awareness about E- Resources

Table 3 indicates that almost 182 respondents (62.8 %) are aware of online resources but whereas only 108 respondents (37.2 %) are not aware of them.

Chart 1: Awareness about E- Resources



Based on Types of E-Resources:

S.No	E- Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	E- Books	79	27.2
2	E- Journals	72	24.8
3	E- Magazines	52	17.9
4	E- Thesis/Dissertations	45	15.5
5	E – Database	27	9.4
6	All	15	5.2
		290	100.0

Table 4: Types of E- Resources

The data of analysis in Table.4 reveals that E- Books and E- Journals were the most used e- resources by the respondents as seen from their responses which are 79 (27.2%) and 72 (24.8%) respectively. It is followed by use of E- Magazine 52 (17.9%), E- thesis & dissertations 45(15.5%), E-Database 27 (9.4%) and only 15(5.2%) responses indicates the use of all E- resources used by the respondents.

Based on Problems faced by the Users:

Types of Problems	No of respondents	Percentage
Slow access speed	187	64.5
Difficulty in finding relevant information	40	13.8
Library time is not suitable	35	12.1
Infrastructure are not suitable	20	6.8
Library staff are not supportive	8	2.8
	290	100.0

Table 5: Problems faced by the Users

It can be inferred from Table 8 that using the Internet is not free from problems. The most common problem faced by the users is that more no of respondents 187 (64.5%) of slow Internet access speed which takes a lot of their slot time to retrieve the relevant information.

Suggestions and Findings:

- Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made:
- ✓ Speed of internet and intranet connection to be increased for quick access to available e- resources.
 - ✓ Use and usability of e- resources by the students needs to be made on regular basis

- ✓ Library professionals of the central library have to create more awareness on e-resources
- ✓ High speed Wi- Fi needs to be established by SVSCE, so that students can use online e- resources and internet within the campus according to their suitability.
- ✓ Central library has to take steps to arrange various training and orientation programmes for students to use the availability of e- resources.

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