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An Users' Survey on Digital Library Services in Engineering Colleges at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract - **Most of the engineering colleges in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu have implemented ICT facilities in their Libraries. The availability of right information at the right time and the right form is of utmost importance to users for their knowledge and development activities. Some measures have also been suggested for the improvement of existing ICT based resources and services. This paper describes the study on user about the digital library services provided by engineering colleges at Coimbatore.**

Keywords: **Digital Libraries Services, ICT Applications and Collections**

I. Introduction

The widespread use of Internet and the wide availability of affordable computing equipments have created tremendous interest in digital libraries. Digital libraries are a set of electronic resources and associated technical capabilities for creating, searching and using information. They are an extension, enhancement and integration of variety of information institutions where resources are selected, collected, organized, preserved and accessed in support of user community. Digital Library Federation defines digital libraries as 'organisations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities'. Digital libraries differ from their counterparts in significant ways: storage is digital, remote access is quick and easy, and materials are copied from master version.

II. Significance Of The Study

The rapid advancement of information and communication technology (ICT) has brought a revolutionary change in the information scenario giving rise to a number of options to handle variety of information sources conveniently and effortlessly. The electronic information resources have acquired a major portion of digital library collections. The academic library of this decade has to possess a portfolio of technology related skills in order to complement and support the navigational skills. Such skills help library staff to manage the information more widely and, in turn, transfer these skills to the users as appropriate.

III. Related Studies

Vasishta, Seema (2007) explains that complexion of academic libraries is changing and a face lift is provided in the light of digital technologies. It not only facilitates the library functions but also saves the precious time, strength and energy of users. Academic institutions are currently undergoing the process by which one medium is reformed and improved upon by another. The travel is towards digitizing traditional resources to e-resources worldwide academic libraries are implementing digital technologies to provide their users with electronic access to a veracity of information resources.

Mal, Bidyut K. and Bajpai, R. P. (2011) in their paper discussed about some major initiatives of digital library undertaken in India. With the advent of digital technology and internet connectivity, the library scenario is changing very rapidly to meet their users need in fast growth digital world.

IV. Objectives

The following objectives are framed for this study.

1. To assess the current state of the art of the information and communication technology infrastructure in engineering college at Coimbatore region;
2. To find out the availability and use of Digital Library;
3. To find out the e-resources used by the users;
4. To find out the digital infrastructures available in the libraries.

V. Methodology

This study investigates the current affairs of ICT facilities and the use of electronic information resources in Engineering College affiliated to Anna University of Technology, Coimbatore. The study attempts to find the availability of resources and ICT applications implemented in libraries. The questioner methods were used to collect the data and all the collected data were analyzed and presented in the table format below.

VI. Results and Discussion

Table I Locating Books Through Library Automation

Level of Opinion	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Always	440	55.0
Often	140	17.5
Rarely	40	5.0
Never	180	22.5
Total	800	100

The Table I describes that 440 respondents (55%) are locating the books always through library automation, 140 respondents (17.5%) are locating the books often by library automation, rarely by 40 respondents (5%), and 22.5% of respondents are not using the library automation facility to locate the book.

Table II Barcode Technology

Level of satisfaction	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Satisfied	380	47.5
High Satisfied	280	35.0
Not Satisfied	140	17.5
Total	800	100

The above table describes the usage opinion on Barcode Technology systems used in the library. Among samples taken for the study, 380 respondents are (47.5%) satisfied, 280 respondents are (35.0%) highly satisfied, and 140 respondents are (17.5%) not satisfied.

Table III Opac Services

Level of Satisfaction	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Satisfied	340	42.05
High Satisfied	370	46.25
Not Satisfied	90	11.25
Total	800	100

Table III shows the usage of OPAC in the library by the respondents. 340 respondents (42.05%) are satisfied with OPAC facility, 370 (46.25%) of the respondents are highly satisfied with the systems and 90(11.25%) of the respondents are not satisfied with the OPAC services.

Table IV Usage of Internet Facilities

Level of Satisfaction	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Satisfied	340	42.05
High Satisfied	370	46.25
Not Satisfied	90	11.25
Total	800	100

Regarding the internet facilities, the opinion by respondents were analyzed and the data analysis were described in the above table IV. 420(52.5%) of the respondents said that internet facilities inside the library are satisfactory, where 220 (27.5%) of the respondents are highly satisfied and 160(20%) of the respondents said that the internet facilities are not satisfactory.

Table V CD - ROM Collections

Level of Satisfaction	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Satisfied	330	41.25
High Satisfied	220	27.50
Not Satisfied	250	31.25
Total	800	100

Regarding the CD-ROM collections, Table V describes that 330 respondents (41.25%) are satisfied, 220 respondents are highly and 250 resondents (31.25%) are not satisfied.

Table VI Usage of Digital Library

S.No.	Details	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
1	Information display	330	41.2
2	Information through web	325	40.6
3	Information alert via mail	160	20.0
4.	Web casting	80	10.0
5	I pod casting	40	5.0
6	Mobile casting	160	20.0
7	Web opac	120	15.0
8	Live chat	80	10.0
9	Faq through website	600	75.0
10	e- journals access	360	45.0
11	access to e- theses	120	15.0
12	document delivery (jccc)	180	22.5
13	blogs from library	475	59.3
14	e- learning tools access	160	20.0
15	others	-	-

The Table VI revealed that 75% of the respondents are using FAQ through website, 45% of respondents are using e-journals,, 41% of the respondents use information display, 40.6% of respondents access information through web and only 5% of the respondents use Ipod casting.

Table VII Access to The Institutional Repositories Data Base

Level of Satisfaction	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Satisfied	420	52.5
High satisfied	160	20.0
Not satisfied	220	27.5
Total	800	100

The table VII shows that 13.75% of respondents access Project & Muse, 12.5% of respondents access Nature full text journals, 12.5% of respondents access Proquest, Lexis journals, 12% of users access EBSCO database and 8.5% of respondents access IEEE journals.

Table VIII Access to The Institutional Repositories Data Base

S.No.	Details	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
1	Articles of faculties /students	60	7.5
2	Patent of faculty and student	92	11.5
3	Standards	84	10.5
4	Lecturer notes	84	10.5
5	Projects reports	64	8.0
6	Dissertations/theses	88	11.0
7	Annual reports	68	8.5
8	Circulars	60	7.6
9	Journals/magazines	64	8.0
10	Audio clippings	80	10.0
11	Video clipping of seminars	76	0.8
12	Photo graphics/multimedia	76	0.8
13	others	-	-

The above Table VIII shows that 11.5% of the respondents access patents, 11 % of the respondents use dissertations, 10.5% of the respondents use standards, lecture notes, and 7.5% of respondents use articles submitted by the faculty.

Table ix Bibliographic Online Data Base

S.No.	Details	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
1	Web of science	320	40
2	Engineering village	180	22.5
3	Scopus	160	20
4	Eric	60	7.5
5	Pub med	20	2.5
6	Science finder	10	1.25
7	Biological abstracts	50	6.25
8	other	-	-
	Total	800	100

The table IX shows the details of distribution of access to bibliographic online data base and the 320 responders (40%) use Web of science, 180 of respondents (22.5%) use Engineering village, 160 (20%) of the respondents use Scopus, and 2.5% of respondents use Pub med database.

VII. Conclusion

The world became small global village due to strong influence and impact of information and communication technology. It is necessary to provide quality information in a best possible way through ICT applications to the end users. Since most of the colleges have various sources, the authorities should turn their attention towards the digital libraries to improve more on ICT facilities and others required facilities.

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