A Study of Use and Attitude towards Electronic Sources among the Librarians of Colleges Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract – **The study aims to find out the use of e-resources by the Librarians of the colleges, affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu. For this study 70 questionnaires were distributed to the Librarians personally. Out of these, 60 were duly filled and returned. The study is relating to the importance of using electronic sources and the association between gender, age, and status-wise and level of awareness and attitude. It was found that the E-Information Sources are almost provided by more than 90% of the college libraries. The librarians expressed high levels of Satisfaction with regard to e-Sources.**

Keywords: **Electronic Resources, User Attitude**

I. Introduction

Electronic information resources have their origin in experimental computer systems developed for the storage and retrieval of bibliographic data during the 1960's. During the 1970's and 1980' s the increasing availability of machine readable data together with the emergence of both real time interactive computing and computer networks enabled the online information industry to emerge. Internet, World Wide Web, Electronic-Book (E-book), Electronic Journal (E-Journal), Electronic Mail (E-mail) etc are using in this field.

II. Review of Literature

Sunil Kumar (2009) describes electronic resources have changed the information retrieval arena very much. The change is more visible in developed countries and other countries. This study is an attempt to compare the use of e-resources, use pattern of search engines, difficulties faced by users regarding e-sources and the different places of use of e-resources by PG students of social work in Cleveland state, university of USA and Loyola college of social sciences in Kerala, India.

Swian and Panda survey attemps to measure the quantum of e-resources accessed in the academic ambience of business school libraries in Orissa, India, The study aims to find that the internet-based e-resources are being well used compared with CD-ROM databases premier web search. Options like Google and Yahoo are the most frequently used search engines which the other searching options are less used. Availability of some key online databases are exclusively confirmed to only a selected few Boys school libraries of the state.

Missingham (2009) studies that the information and analysis of a national purchasing consortium for Australian Libraries, Electronic Resources Australia (ERA). The paper outlines the needs of users as expressed to a parliamentary inquiry, the four year national consultation and results of the first two years of operation of the consortium. The main findings are ERA now provides access to quality online resources for approximately 8.5 millian Australians. The work has led to careful consideration of issues including subscription periods governance, funding models, "best price" and collaboration with vendors for marketing and promotion.

III. Scope of The Study

The scope of the study is entitled "Use and attitude towards Electronic sources among the Librarians of colleges, affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli". This study examines the use of e- sources among the Librarians, analyse the purpose of using e-source among the respondents and examine the use of the most preferable Electronic source by the Librarians.

Sample

For this study, primary and secondary data were collected and analyzed. The stratified random sampling technique has been employed to draw the sample of the Librarians.

Data Collection

There were 62 arts and science colleges are affiliated to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (MSU), Tirunelveli. Out of these 19 colleges are in Kanyakumari District, 27 colleges are in Tirunelveli District, 16 colleges are in Thoothukudi District as Government, aided, autonomous and self finance in status. For this study 70 questionnaires were distributed to the Librarians personally. Out of these, 60 were duly filled and returned.

The survey method is used to collect data from the Librarians of the colleges affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. The survey attempts to describe and interpret what exists at present in the form of conditions, practices, processes, trends, effects, attitudes and beliefs.

IV. Objectives of The Study

1. To know the use of E-Sources among the librarians.

2. To understand the awareness and attitude of librarians.

3. To find out the use of most preferable E-Source use by the librarians.

4. To find out the use of the most preferable search engine by the librarian.

V. Data Analysis

Table I Gender-Wise, Age-Wise and Academic Status-Wise Classification

Particulars	Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Gender	Male	46	76.67
	Female	14	23.33
	Total	60	100
Age	Below 30	35	58.33
	31-50	14	23.33
	Above 50	11	18.34
	Total	60	100
Academic Status	Librarians : UGC	30	50
	Selection Grade Librarians	22	36.67
	Assistant Librarians	8	13.33
	Total	60	100

Source: Primary data

It is observed from Table I that out of 60 librarians, 46 librarians (76.67%) are male whereas the remaining 14 librarians (23.33%) are females. It is concluded from the above analysis that the majority of the librarians are male.

It depicts that the important age group of the librarians is below 30 years and it constitutes 58.33 % (35 librarians) to the total. The librarians who are in the age group of 31 – 50 years constitute 23.33 % (14 librarians) and it is followed by the age group of above 50 years which constitute 18.34 % (11 librarians).

It is inferred from Table I that the important level of academic status among the selected librarians who are in the category under UGC norms which constitute 50% (30 librarians) to the total and it is followed by Selection Grade Librarians and Assistant Librarians which constitute 36.67% (22 librarians) and 13.33% (8 librarians) respectively.

The present study confines the E-sources such as CD ROM, Internet, Online journals and E-books. The opinion of librarians on usage of E-sources are asked to rate the given sources at five point scale according to their order of importance. In order to find out the association between the opinion on usage of E-sources and the level of gender, age group, academic status of the librarians, One Way ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) test is applied and the computed results are presented in Table II.

TABLE II ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE OPINION ON USAGE OF E-SOURCES AND THE GENDER, AGE & ACADEMIC STATUS

Particulars	Factors	E-Sources			
		CD-ROM	Internet	Online Sources	E-Books
Gender	Male	4.44	4.19	3.81	3.81
	Female	4.51	4.26	4.59	3.93
	F-Statistics	0.63	4.74*	6.10*	5.48*
	P-Value	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
Age	Below 30	4.33	4.22	4.00	4.22
	31-50	4.25	4.38	4.38	4.50
	Above 50	4.23	4.08	3.77	3.69
	F-Statistics	0.14	7.56*	2.40*	0.69
	P-Value	0.87	0.00	0.10	1.36
Academic Status	Librarians : UGC	3.33	4.44	4.00	3.00
	Selection Grade Librarians	4.44	3.33	3.89	3.67
	Assistant Librarians	4.13	4.27	4.07	3.93
	F-Statistics	1.20	6.37*	0.28	5.66*
	P-Value	0.27	0.00	0.81	0.00

* Significant at the five per cent level.
Source: Compiled from Primary Data

Table II reveals that computed F-values are statistically significant at 5% level for the category of usage of E-sources such as Internet, Online Journals and E-books with the F-values of 4.74, 6.10 and 5.48 respectively. It is concluded that there is a significance association between above mentioned usage of E-sources and the gender level of librarian.

It is found from Table II that computed F-values are statistically significant at 5% level for the category of usage of E-sources such as Internet and Online Journals with the F-values of 7.56 and 2.40 respectively. It is concluded that

there is a significance association between the opinion of librarians on usage of Internet and online journals and their age group.

It is understood from Table II that the significant differences among the three groups of academic status were identified with regard to their opinions on usage of E-sources such as internet and E-books as shown by the computed 'F' statistics and 'P' values. Hence, it could be concluded that the opinions of the librarians of different categories have differed significantly with regard to the usage of internet and E-books.

TABLE III PREFERENCE TO USE INTERNET SEARCH ENGINES

Sl. No.	Type of search engines	Research scholars	
		Total score	Rank
1	Yahoo	15	II
2	Google	26	I
3	Ask	4	V
4	Google Chrome	9	III
5	Explorer	6	IV

From table III, it is observed that the most of the librarians preferred google search engine for browsing which obtain 1st rank followed by yahoo, Google Chrome, Explorer and ask which obtain second, third, Fourth and Fifth ranks respectively.

TABLE IV PREFERENCE OF PURPOSE uo USE E-SOURCES

Sl. No.	Purpose	Librarians	
		Total Score	Rank
1	For academic purpose	299	II
2	For collaborates in research projects	310	I
3	For e-mailing	237	III
4	For entertainment	143	V
5	For purchasing of goods	112	VI
6	For chatting	159	IV

Source: Primary Data.

It is understood from Table IV, that the most of the librarians use e-sources for the purpose of collaborates in research projects which obtain 1st rank with total score of 310. It is followed by academic purpose, e-mailing, chatting, entertainment and purchasing of goods which obtain second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth rank respectively.
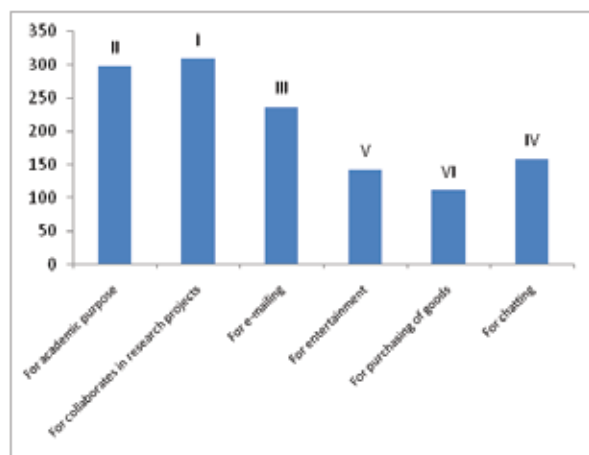

Fig.1 Preference of Purpose to Use E-Sources

VI. Findings

It was found that the E-Information Sources are almost provided by more than 90% of the college libraries. The librarians expressed high levels of Satisfaction with regard to e-Sources. It was obvious that most of the librarians had gained exposure in the e-field. A few colleges have yet to give importance to the e-resources. It was found that in most of the colleges, the computer sections are well maintained. It was observed that there existed further scope for developing the e-infrastructure by a few colleges.

VII. Conclusion

The present study reveals that more and more library faculties have been using the e-source for their research works these days. There seems to be greater scope for further improvements in terms of equipment, technology and facilities. The style and system of functioning of the web-based research centres are to be enhanced both qualitatively and quantitatively still. Adequate incentives and encouragements also could be provided to web using researchers. A few advanced level academic exercises like workshops, refresher courses, seminars and guest lecturers become necessary for updating knowledge. Likewise, more e-journals could be subscribed by the libraries. The recent developments in the field of e-resource should be made known to library faculties. A touch of further modernization has become essentially imperative in this dynamic branch of exploration of truth.

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