Research Paper | **Library and Information Science**

Awareness and Use of Electronic Resources among Computer Science Students in Government Degree Colleges in Bangalore: A Study

Dr. Mariraj Vasudev Sedam	Librarian, Maharani's Science College for Women, Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560001, Karnataka
Shweta Kalmath	Librarian, Govt. Ramnarayan Chellaram College of Commerce & Management, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560001, Karnataka

ABSTRACT   Libraries and librarians like commercial publishers were soon to feel the virtues of Web and started using it as a carrier for disseminating information resources. What distinguishes current networked resource discovery from the traditional library model is the limited, if almost non-existent, role of surrogates in the process. In this paper we have tried to know the level of awareness & use of e-resources among computer science students (under Graduate).

KEYWORDS : E-Resources, Awareness, NLIST, Information Products

Introduction:

The application of computers for information work progressed in two ways, to refine the techniques in generating printed information products and to arrive at electronic only information products. The benefits of computer application both at the pre and post-production stages for printed information resources had been manifold. This significantly reduced the time lag in production and remarkably improved the format and presentation of information in these sources. However, the vital step in the application of computer and allied technology in the information dissemination chain is the arrival of viable non-print delivery means such as online, floppy and CD-ROM databases of electronic information. Initially started for bibliographic information only, slowly with significant advances in computer and memory technology, these started to amass numeric, full text/image, and other types of information. The Internet and its dominant protocol Web demonstrated, outside the library networking and formal resource sharing channels, that large amount of electronic information can be hosted in a decentralized fashion, across the globe in a cost effective manner. Since 1990s the Internet has changed the dissemination of information such as electronic copies of traditional paper-based journals and conference proceedings accessible through subscription or pay per view, free electronic-only referred journals, haphazards copies of all kinds of material on the home pages and a handful of electronic pre-prints archives [1].

Methodology:

Survey method has been employed to collect the information directly from the students of Computer Science in Government Degree Colleges in Bangalore City. The data required for the study can be collected through observation of interview. But these methods were not suitable and also costly both interns of time and money. Hence it was decided to collect the data through a questionnaire.

Study population:

The study population consist Students of Computer Science in Government Degree Colleges in Bangalore City. Students are chosen as survey population. The total strength of the Students are 200 covering Computer Application department.

Discipline	Total No. of Students	No. of Questionnaire distributed	Response rate (%)
Computer Science	200	200	200 (100%)

Sex	Frequency (N)	Percentage
Male	112	56%
Female	88	44%
Total	200	100%

Table -1: Sex-wise distribution of respondents

The study population comprises of students studying in Computer Science department in Government degree colleges at Bangalore. The analysis of data by sex indicates that fifty six (56%; N=112) are male and fourty four percent (44%; N=88) are female (Vide Table-1).

Table-2: Department-wise distribution of respondents

Department	Frequency	Percentage
Computer Science	200	100%

Table-2 shows the department wise distribution of respondents. The number of respondents belongs to department of computer science are 200 (100%).

Table-3: Access to Electronic Resources

Particulars	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
At home	42	21%	158	79%
At college library	181	90.5%	19	9.5%
At department	92	46%	108	54%
At cyber cafe	27	13.5%	173	86.5%
Through Smart Phone	136	68%	64	32%

Table-3 shows that Majority of Students said they do not access e-resources at home & Cyber café but they do access e-resources through College library 181 (90.5%) followed by Smart Phones 136 (68%) and Department 92 (46%).

Table-4: Access to UGC-INFLIBNET NLIST consortium

Particulars	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
At home	07	3.5%	193	96.5%
At college library	195	97.5%	5	2.5%
At department	27	13.5%	173	86.5%
At cyber cafe	00	0%	200	200%
Through Smart Phone	157	78.5%	43	21.5%

None of the students do not access UGC-INFLIBNET NLIST consortium at cyber cafes. Majority of students said they do access e-resources at college library 195 (97.5%) followed by Smart Phones 157 (78.5%) and at department 27 (13.5%) respectively.

Table-5: Access to Internet:

Particulars	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
At home	122	61%	78	39%
At college library	141	70.5%	59	29.5%

Particulars	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
At department	29	14.5%	171	85.5%
At cyber cafe	37	18.5%	163	81.5%
Through Smart Phone	188	94%	12	06%

Three fourth of the study population do not access Internet at cyber cafes. Survey shows that a large majority of students have access to Internet through Smart phones 188 (94%) followed by at the college library 141 (70.5%), at home 122 (61%) and department 29 (14.5%).

Table-6: Level of awareness of E-Resources
Where '1' indicates No awareness and '5' indicates high awareness.

Resources	Levels				
	1	2	3	4	5
Electronic Resources (in General)	-	-	125 (62.5%)	28 (14%)	47 (23.5%)
E-Journals	86 (43%)	27 (13.5%)	08 (04%)	23 (11.5%)	56 (28%)
E-Books	63 (31.5%)	31 (15.5%)	27 (13.5%)	29 (14.5%)	50 (25%)
UGC-INFLIBNET NLIST Consortium	-	-	156 (78%)	44 (22%)	-
CD-ROM Databases	154 (77%)	12 (06%)	34 (17%)	-	-
Internet	-	-	-	12 (06%)	188 (94%)
E-Mail	-	-	189 (94.5%)	11 (5.5%)	-
Discussion Forums / Mailing List	23 (11.5%)	77 (38.5%)	99 (49.5%)	1 (0.5%)	-

The level of use of e-resources has been tabulated against (i) level 1 (ii) level 2 (iii) level 3 (iv) level 4 and (v) level 5. Where level 1 indicates no awareness and level 5 indicates high awareness. From table (6) we can conclude that, students are more aware on Internet (94%) at level 5, e-mail (94.5%) at level 3, rather than e-books (28%) at level 5, e-journals (25%) at level 5 or NLIST (78%) at level 3.

Table-7: Frequency of Use of E-Resources

Resources	Every day	Twice or more times in a week	Once in a week	Once in a month	Rarely
Electronic Resources (in general)	02 (01%)	27 (13.5%)	14 (07%)	152 (76%)	05 (2.5%)
E-Journals	03 (1.5%)	06 (03%)	23 (11.5%)	146 (73%)	22 (11%)
E-Books	-	07 (3.5%)	54 (27%)	133 (66.5%)	06 (03%)
UGC-INFLIBNET NLIST Consortium	-	-	41 (20.5%)	139 (69.5%)	20 (10%)
CD-ROM Databases	-	-	-	187 (93.5%)	13 (6.5%)
Internet	164 (82%)	13 (6.5%)	09 (4.5%)	14 (07%)	-
E-Mail	32 (16%)	83 (41.5%)	58 (29%)	26 (13%)	01 (0.5%)
Discussion Forums/ Mailing List	-	-	03 (1.5%)	189 (94.5%)	08 (04%)

The frequency of use of e-resources has been tabulated against (i) everyday (ii) twice or more time in a week (iii) once in a week (iv) once in a month (v) rarely. The frequency has been calculated for each type of e-resources like e-journals, e-books, UGC-INFLIBNET NLIST consortium, CD-ROM databases etc. Majority of the students access Electronic resources are used by once in a month e-journals, e-books, UGC-IN-FLIBNET NLIST Consortium, CD-ROM databases, are used by once in a month by 73%, 66.5%, 69.5%, 93.5% respectively, Internet is used by everyday by 82%; E-mail is used by Twice or more times in a week by 41.5% and discussion forum / mailing list is used by once in a month by 94.5%.

Table-8 Frequency of Library Staff Support

Resources	Not at all	To a little extent	To some extent	To a greater extent	To full extent
Assist and help in locating information on the Internet	02 (01%)	53 (26.5%)	49 (24.5%)	96 (48%)	-
Train us using computers and Internet	28 (14%)	23 (11.5%)	51 (25.5%)	98 (49%)	-
Demonstrate and teach the use of CD-ROM and other e-resources	37 (18.5%)	49 (24.5%)	114 (57%)	-	-
Made us aware about e-resources available on UGC-INFLIBNET NLIST Consortium	05 (2.5%)	38 (19%)	97 (48.5%)	36 (18%)	24 (12%)
They are well trained in using electronic environment	02 (01%)	17 (8.5%)	137 (68.5%)	37 (18.5%)	07 (3.5%)
They are co-operative and supportive nature	25 (12.5%)	54 (27%)	73 (36.5%)	40 (20%)	08 (04%)

The level of frequency of library staff support has been tabulated against (i) not at all (ii) to a little extent (iii) to some extent (iv) to a greater extent (v) to full extent where level not at all indicate no support from library staff and to full extent support from library support. Here, in this section the support of library staff is almost to some extent (on an average is 50%) and to a greater extent (on an average is 40%).

5.2. Conclusion:

Like building collection, and providing services, improving access to information should be the guiding criteria for libraries in the electronic era. We have to design new set of parameters to judge up on operational efficiency and performance effectiveness of libraries. The traditional libraries boasted that they attracted a lot of users to stay inside their premises for comparatively longer times whereas a modern librarian will be concerned more about carrying information to users' desktops. No library how rich its budget allocation and collection may be is in a position to satisfy all users' demands. As a person well versed in the intricacies of the merging information market, he is frank enough to admit that information needs of all users are not to be met by the library alone. Collaboration with other libraries through consortia or networks increases the quantum of resources available for users, and will be regarded as indications of mature thinking than as weakness. Most of our libraries spent a lot of public money for information needs of a small percentage of the population and optimizing that spending for the benefit of a large number of users is the need of the hour. Efforts be made by library professionals to educate and provide on sight training for optimum utilization e-resources to the users on government degree colleges in Bangalore city. Effort be made by librarian and educate and provide on hand training for optimum use of e-resource to the study of government degree colleges in Bangalore. Whether users have lost interest in our services or are they bypassing us are crucial questions to be studied from library and user perspectives and to be deliberated in professional forms and user-library meets. May be we are going through a passing phase and this is the right time to have a close introspection and critical look at our collections and services in the light of complex user needs, hazy use patterns, and ever increasing spread of internet and electronic information.

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