



# Use of Electronic Resources by Faculty and Students in Higher Education Institutions in Chennai, Tamil Nadu: A Study

## KEYWORDS

E-Resources, Students, Faculty Members, and e-resource use.

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**ABSTRACT** *This paper evaluates the use of Central Libraries in the Higher education Institutions in Chennai by the faculty members and students. A survey on 48 faculty and 57 Students were conducted through a questionnaire. The analysis of the collected data covers the use of electronic resources, and how the electronic resources are improving the academic carriers of the Faculty and Students, and also what are the problems that are faced in using the electronic resources. The study concludes that the main intention of the use of electronic resources is the academic interest of the users.*

### 1. Introduction

The user attitude towards information is gradually shifting from the printed documents to electronics resources. Electronic learning materials have increasingly become focus of research and development of any institution in the recent years. The term 'e-Library' refers to information accessed through electronic sources like Internet. Unlike traditional libraries, e-libraries are not limited by location or time. Libraries have changed with the emergence and application of Information Technology (IT). The main purpose of the present study is to investigate the utilization of e-resource in the central library of Higher education institutions of Chennai by the students and Faculty members.

### 2. Scope and Limitation

The purpose of this study is to explore the use and awareness of the e-resources facilities and resources by faculty and Students of the higher education institutions in Chennai, Tamilnadu.

### 3. Objectives

- To identify awareness of the Digital Library and its resources;
- To study the use of the e-resource by the faculty members and Students;
- To find out the extent of use of the e-resource;
- To identify the purposes for using the e-resource;
- To discover problems faced by the faculties and Students;
- To discover the satisfaction level with Internet-based resources and facilities;
- To suggest ways to improve the Digital-based resources in the library.

### 4. Methodology

Data was collected using a questionnaire. The survey covers Faculty and Students belonging to various subjects in various higher education institutions of Chennai region. The subjects to which the faculty members and students belonged to ranged from arts to science. A total of 120 questionnaires were distributed, 50 to faculty and 70 to Students. A total of 105 valid questionnaires were collected from faculty members (48) and Students (57). The response rate was 87.5%.

### 5. Analysis and Discussion

#### Awareness of e-resources

The following table shows that the knowledge of Faculty members and Students in e-resources.

**Table: 1. Awareness of e-resources**

Academic Status	Frequency	Yes	No
Faculty members	48	48	0
Students	57	57	0
Average	105	100%	0

#### Faculty-wise Distribution of respondents

Table 2 reveals that 54.29 percentages of science respondents and 45.71 percentages of arts respondents used the e-resources. This is glaring example of subject-ratio imbalance of using e-resources.

**Table: 2. Faculty-wise Distribution of respondents**

Sex	No of Responses	Percentage
Science	48	45.71
Arts	57	54.29
Average	105	100%

#### Experience

The majority of respondents had more than 4 years experience of accessing an e-resources. It is interesting to note that faculty members had a longer experience of using e-resources than Students and that nearly one-fourth of the Students had been using the e-resources for less than 4 years.

**Table: 3. E-Resource use**

Academic Status	<1 year	1-2 years	2-4 years	>4 years
Faculty members	0	0	0	48
Students	0	0	11	46
Average	0	0	1.47	89.53

#### Frequency

To assess frequency of use, respondents were asked to indicate any of six time periods. About 8.57% of them used Internet 2-3 times a week, and 89.52% of users to be use it daily.

**Table: 4. Frequency of e-resource use**

Academic Status	Daily	2-3 times / week	Once a week	Fort-nightly	Monthly
Faculty member	45	3	0	0	0
Students	49	6	1	0	0
Average	89.52	8.57	0.95	0	0

#### Location

The respondents have e- resources to access through the library and their own. A majority of respondents reported that they accessed the e-resources and Internet through the central library, more than one half of respondent access at home, while about one-quarter use a own service slightly less than

one-fifth through their Departments and at home were most popular with faculty, while Students chose the central library and Internet cafés.

**Table: 5. Location of e-resource use**

Academic Status	Inter-net Café	Own service	Central library	Department	Home
Faculty members	7	16	38	11	21
Students	35	11	52	4	37
Average	40	25.71	85.71	14.28	55.23

**Purpose**

Nearly 45.33% of respondents use the e-resources for research, then 43% of respondent for their education purpose, and about one-third of respondents for Reference their subject works, with only 15 percent reporting using it for entertainment.

**Table: 6. Purpose for e-resource use**

Academic Status	Subject	Educa-tion	Entertain-ment	Refer-ence
Faculty mem-ber	21	39	0	26
Students	76	53	33	45
Average	45.33	43.0	15.42	33.18

**Nature of e- Resources**

More than 61.71% of respondents used for e-journals, with lower but substantial numbers for other kinds of resources.

**Table: 7. Nature of E- resources**

Academ-ic Status	E-jour-nals	Data-bases	Techn-ical Re-ports	E- books	Refer-ence docu-ments	Confer-ence pro-ceed-ings
Faculty member	36	0	11	7	26	29
Students	27	0	3	2	36	19
Average	61.71	0	13.33	8.57	60.28	47.09

**Difficulties**

Downloading is a problem for more than half the respondent, while the lack of training about the e-journal uses also a problem for 4.39%. Slow speed is a problem for nearly one-third.

**Table: 8. Difficulties of accessing the Internet**

Academic Status	SS	LoT	IO	DP
Faculty member	28	21	18	24
Students	39	74	62	102
Average	31.31	44.39	37.38	58.87

\*Slow speed (SS) Lack of training (LoT) Information overload (IO) Downloading problem (DP)

**Satisfaction**

Nearly 76.19% of respondents are fully satisfied with e-resources facilities, and 18.09% of respondents are partially satisfied.

**Table: 9. Satisfaction with Internet facilities**

Academic Status	Fully	Partially	Least satis-fied	No com-ment
Faculty member	37	8	2	1
Students	43	11	3	0
Average	76.19	18.09	4.76	0.95

**7. Findings**

- Faculty members have longer experience using the Internet than Students
- Free Internet access is provided by the Central Library
- The central library was the most comfortable place for accessing the Internet.
- Research and education are the top reasons for accessing the Internet
- E-journals are the most popular Internet resource
- The use of technical reports and electronic theses and dissertations is limited due to lack of awareness by the Faculty and Students.
- Downloading problems, irrelevant information, finding relevant information, and information overload are the major problems faced by faculty members and research scholars.

**8. Recommendations**

- There is need to increase awareness about resources such as OPACs, information gateways, groups, discussion forums, etc.
- There is need to develop knowledge about use of electronic theses and dissertations, technical reports, patents, etc., available online.
- Compared to the total number of students and faculty members, the number of users using the Internet is small. Further, those who do use the Internet do not have adequate knowledge of the above-mentioned resources. Therefore, it is recommended that users be educated about these resources.

**9. Conclusion**

The Internet is a major source of communication and dissemination of information in the twenty-first century. Libraries in India are rapidly transforming into digital libraries and virtual learning resource centers. It is important that the Central Libraries maintain the Virtual Learning Resource Center with all necessary technology, for the effective use of information in higher education and research.

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