

# Access Variations to E-Resource Pertaining to Science, Arts and Vocational Genre in the Libraries of Chennai Region



## Library Science

**KEYWORDS :** E-resources, online journal, library consortia, Database, E-Books, E-journals

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### ABSTRACT

*The study aimed at finding the access variations to e-resources pertaining to Science, Arts and Vocational genre in the libraries of Chennai region. For this study a questionnaire was framed and distributed among 100 regular visitors of the libraries in Chennai region, out of which 80 were returned. It includes the aspects like purpose of visiting the library, types of services provided by the library and users satisfaction level of library services. The present Paper examines the existence of various E-resources, awareness about E-resources, preference to E-resource format, Access points of e-resources, problems faced while accessing the E-resources, user satisfaction of Science, Arts and Vocational genre population in the libraries of Chennai region.*

### INTRODUCTION

The library is the heart of all the Colleges and universities work; directly so as regards its research work and indirectly regards its educational work, which derives its life from research work. Libraries and its research activities are Interdependent. The library serves as natural home of research and contributes significantly to innovation and technical change and training grounds for research and provides basic methodology in specialized fields. The success of research depends upon the resources, facilities and services provided by the libraries.

In this information explosion era, university and College library plays a pivotal role in preserving and serving the information requirements of the users. In the present scenario, libraries are the main facilitators in the scholarly communication systems. The information is generated from the laboratories, research and development establishment, universities, Colleges, etc by the authors, editors, printers, publishers, distributors etc. The communicated information have been selected, acquired, processed, stored and retrieved by the College library for current use and for prosperity. Therefore, library is a place where books and publications are kept for information reading and reference purpose. It is the heart of an institution, mind of society and nerve centre of an organization. It is a centre of learning and clearing house of information dissemination.

Library plays an important role in promoting research and development in the country. The electronic resources are directly impacting the nature and quality of research across the globe. Now a day the e-resources are becoming more and more valuable. The printed resources are now being digitized, which has given rise in increase of the availability of books and journals in the electronic format. These can be used for efficient retrieval and meeting information needs. Thus, the libraries are stepping towards e-resources and services, which are found to be less expensive, more informative and useful for the research scholars.

UGC liberally contributes the grants to the Colleges and universities to install the ICT facilities and generate a digital environment. INFLIBNET is actively involved in the automation and digitization of university and college libraries. Really the encouragement and cooperation given by the INFLIBNET by its various activities like funding, training, orientation, workshops and publications made the university and college libraries equipped with all ICT tools for providing better services for the students, teachers and researchers.

### OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

- To study about the awareness of e-resources among the students of different genre of Science, Arts and Vocational in Chennai region.

- To find the purpose of the using e-resources by the students of different genre of Science, Arts and Vocational in Chennai region.
- To study the use of e-Resources.
- To find out the most frequently used e-resources being referred by students of different genre of Science, Arts and Vocational in Chennai region.
- To study the research output after usage of e-resources by students of different genre of Science, Arts and Vocational in Chennai region.
- To study the users satisfaction pertaining to e-resources availability
- To study the problems faced by students of different genre of Science, Arts and Vocational in Chennai region.

### SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The present study is confined to Chennai region Central libraries and students of different genre of Science, Arts and Vocational and their access to them.

### METHODOLOGY

In the present study, the questionnaire method has been adopted to collect information from different genre of Science, Arts and Vocational in Chennai region. The use of e-resources, frequency of use of e-resources, purpose of using e-resources, problems faced by the users while using e-resources are the major aspects studied. The findings of the present study are thus purely based on the responses made in the questionnaires returned by the respondents and interviews conducted informally.

### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The data collected and analyzed with the help of various statistical measures. After analyzing the data the investigator test the hypotheses and arrives at generalizations and builds a theory. The data collected by the investigator were organized and presented below;

**Table 1: Questionnaire Distributed and Response Rate**

Sl.No	Category	No. of Resp.	%
1	Respondents	80	80
2	Non-Responded	20	20
	Total	100	100

**Total questionnaires distributed = 100**

**Table 2: Frequency use of Periodicals**

Frequency	Science	%	Arts	%	Vocational	%
Daily	13	86.66	11	52.38	13	29.55
Twice/Week	1	6.67	5	23.81	18	40.91

Weekly 1	1	6.67	3	14.29	8	18.18
On Needed	0	0	2	9.52	5	11.36
Total	15	100	21	100	44	100

The above table shows that 86.66% Science students are using Periodicals daily, 6.67 twice in a week and 6.67% use Periodicals in a week. Similarly, more than half 52.38% students of Arts use Periodicals daily, 23.81 twice in a week, 14.29% weekly and 9.52% students use Periodicals when needed. Similarly 29.55% students of Vocational genre use Periodicals daily, 40.91% students use Periodicals twice in a week, 18.18% student's use Periodicals in a week and 11.36% students use only when needed.

**Table 3: Physical Form of Catalogue used**

Catalogue	Science	%	Arts	%	Vocational	%
OPAC	15	100	21	100	44	100
Card	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	100	21	100	44	100

The above table shown that there is no use of card catalogue of students because there is no provision for card catalogue replaced by use of OPAC in most of the libraries.

**Table 4: Awareness of E-Resources**

Awareness	Science	%	Arts	%	Vocational	%
Yes	15	100	21	100	40	90.91
No	0	0	0	0	4	9.09
Total	15	100	21	100	44	100

The above table shows that 100% Science students are aware of E-Resources similarly, 100% Arts Students are aware of E-Resources and the 90.91% Vocational genre are aware of E-Resources whereas 9.09 are not aware of E-Resources.

**Table 5: Sources which give information about the E-Resources**

Sources	Science	%	Arts	%	Vocational	%
Print Journals	5	33.33	15	71.43	20	45.45
Library Professionals	7	46.66	5	23.81	15	34.09
Teachers	7	46.66	10	47.62	25	56.81
Internet	2	13.33	2	9.52	5	11.36
Colleagues	3	20	7	33.33	9	20.45
Any Other	1	6.67	2	9.52	5	11.36

(Multiple answers were received)

The table shown that information about E-Resources given in many sources and everyone got access to it about 33.33% Science students, 71.43% Art students and 45.45% Vocational genre students get information about e-resources from Print journal and other sources also, 46.66% Science students, 23.81% Arts students and 34.09% Vocational genre students get information from Library professionals, while other Teachers share 46.66% Science students 47.62% Arts students and 56.81% Vocational students while through the Internet 13.33% Science students, 9.52% Arts students and 11.36% Vocational students know about the E-Resources. Discuss through the colleague 20% Science students, 33.33% Arts students and 20.45% Vocational students' gated information about E-Resources. A small number of Them, i.e. 11.36% get information from other sources such as social Networking sites, notice board of the departments etc. the table

shown that information about E-Resources given many sources and everyone got information many sources.

**Table 6: Place of Accessing E-Resources**

Place	Science	%	Arts	%	Vocational	%
Department	10	66.67	17	80.95	36	81.82
Computer Lab	5	33.33	3	14.29	20	45.45
Library	12	80	10	47.62	10	22.73
Browsing Centre	2	13.33	3	14.29	5	11.36

(Multiple answers were received)

This table shown that every one access E-Resources from many place some access Departmental Computer Lab, Central Library Computer Lab and other place and some use Computer centre Lab, departmental Computer Lab and other places also and the use of Departmental Computer Lab on big scale for accessing E-Resources 66.67% Science students, 80.95% Arts students and 81.82% Vocational students prefer Departmental Computer Lab after that Central Library Computer Lab also popular for accessing e-Resources.

**Table 7: Most Preferred format for Reading E-resources**

Format	Science	%	Arts	%	Vocational	%
HTML	4	26.67	6	28.57	9	20.45
PDF	7	46.66	11	52.38	14	31.82
Print copy	4	26.67	4	19.05	21	47.73
Total	15	100	21	100	44	100

It can be understood from the above table that the most preferred format for reading e-Resources articles by the respondents is PDF as 46.66% Science students, 52.38% Arts students and 31.82% Vocational students of the user prefer it, than the HTML format which only 26.67% Science students, 28.57% Arts students and 20.45% Vocational students use it and rest 26.67% Science students, 19.05% Arts students and 47.73% Vocational students prefer Print copy only.

**Table 8: Access Point for Searching Articles**

Searching by	Science	%	Arts	%	Vocational	%
Subject Headings	3	20	5	23.8	14	31.82
Keyword	6	40	9	42.85	16	36.36
Title	3	20	4	19.07	7	15.91
Author	3	20	3	14.28	7	15.91
Total	15	100	21	100	44	100

It can be seen from the above table that every one search the Documents different-different way such as 20% Science students, 23.8% Arts students and 31.82% Vocational students like Subject headings searching the document and 40% Science students, 42.58% Arts students and 36.36% Vocational students like searching the document through keyword Searching and some use Title searching such as 20% Science students, 19.07% Arts students and 15.91% Vocational students liking It and 20% Science students, 14.48% Arts students and 15.91% Vocational students like search the Document through Author name. In last we found that Keyword searching is most liking.

**Table 9: Choice of Search Material for Reading**

Outcome	Science	%	Arts	%	Vocational	%
Relevance	4	26.67	7	33.33	23	52.27

Depth	11	73.33	14	66.67	21	47.73
Total	15	100	21	100	44	100

The above table reveals that 73.33% Science students prefer depth (retrieval of a large number of records) and only 26.67% Science students like relevance search for journal articles other it 66.67% Arts students like Depth search and 33.33% like Relevance search it means Arts students also like Depth search but only 47.73% Vocational students like depth study and 52.27% Vocational students like Relevance study its mean most of Vocational students use E-journals only Relevance study.

**Table 10: Awareness of E-resource Consortium**

Awareness	Science	%	Arts	%	Vocational	%
Yes	15	100	19	90.48	25	56.82
No	0	0	2	9.52	19	43.18
Total	15	100	21	100	44	100

It is clearly indicated from the above table that 100% Science students in the college, they are aware of e-resource consortia, 90.48% Arts students also know about E-resources consortia and only 9.52% are not aware of E-resources consortia and same most of Vocational students 56.82% are aware the E-resource consortia and 43.18% Vocational students are not aware to the E-resources consortium.

**Table 11: Satisfaction with Infrastructural Facilities of E-resources**

Satisfaction Level	Science	%	Arts	%	Vocational	%
Fully Satisfied	10	66.67	17	80.95	35	79.55
Partially satisfied	5	33.33	4	19.05	9	20.45
Unsatisfied	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	100	21	100	44	100

The above tabulated data clearly indicates that majority of Science students 66.67%, Arts students 80.95% and 79.55% Vocational students are fully satisfied with infrastructural facility provided to them for accessing e-resources and only 33.33% Science students, 19.05% Arts students and only 20.45% Vocational students are partially satisfied with E-Resources.

**FINDINGS**

- Science students (100%) are aware of E-resources while majority of Arts students (100%) and Vocational (90.91%) are aware of e-resources.
- Major portion of Science students and Arts students access e-resources daily and Vocational students use e-resources facility 2-3 times in a week.
- PDF was found out to be the most preferred format for reading e-resources articles among all students.

- The study found that 20% Science students search by subject headings 40% keyword and 20% through the title and 20% through the author prefer to search the articles, Arts and Vocational students also most like keyword searching.
- In the articles search result as a depth material preferred for the reading Science students (73.33%) and Arts students (66.67%) while Vocational students (52.27%) preferred relevance search in journal articles.
- Majority of students in all genres are aware of e-resources consortia. UGC INFONET was found to be the consortia used by the majority of Arts and Science students and Vocational also.
- Majority of Science students 66.67%, Arts students 80.95% and 79.55% Vocational students were found to be fully satisfied by the infrastructural facility for accessing e-resources, however only 33.33% Science students, Arts 19.05% and 20.45% Vocational students were partially satisfied with the infrastructural facility for accessing e-resources.

**CONCLUSION**

The present study sought to examine the access variations in the use of electronic resources by varied genres of student populations in the libraries of Chennai region. The result shows that most of the objectives are met satisfactorily; the study reveals that majority of students are aware of e-resources. It has been found from the survey that maximum students access e-resources through various terminals. Using e-resources for seminars was recognized as an important purpose for doing so among students apart from using it for writing papers and finding relevant information in area of specialization. Majority of science and Arts students use e-journals daily and majority of vocational students use e-resources 2-3 times in a week. A major portion of science students search articles through search engines, because they find it easy to use. The study also found PDF to be most important format for reading e-resources articles. Science students and Arts students prefer depth, while relevance is preferred by Vocational students in Chennai region. The present study found that majority of students are aware of e-resources consortia and science and arts students use a wider range of consortia reason being, they are aware of more e-resource consortia in their respective field than the students of vocational. E-resources were considered to be equally authoritative as print resources. The study also found out that majority of students and Research Scholars are fully satisfied with the infrastructural facilities. Majority of students of vocational and arts both feel that user training is useful for increasing the usage of e-resources among the students.

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