Research Paper Library Science

E-Resource Access by The Students And Research Scholars in the Department of Chemistry of National College, Tiruchirappalli: A Study

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at finding the use of e-resources by the students and research scholars in the Department of Chemistry of National College (Autonomous), Trichy. For this study a questionnaire was framed for users and was distributed among 100 users of the department of Chemistry, 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 in the department of Chemistry, National College (Autonomous) by Students and Research Scholars.

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

1. 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 of the Colleges and its research activities are Interdependent. The College library serves as natural home of research and contributes significantly to innovation and technical change and training grounds for research scholars and provides basic methodology in specialized fields. The success of their research depends upon the resources, facilities and services they had in Colleges.

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, the College and university 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.

University and College 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 college and university 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.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

- To study about the awareness of e-resources among the students and research scholars, in the Department of Chemistry in National College, Tiruchirappalli.
- To find the purpose of the using e-resources by the students and research scholars
- To study the use of e-Resources.
- To find out the most frequently used e-resources being referred by students and research scholars.
- To study the research output after usage of e-resources by students and research scholars.
- To study the users satisfaction pertaining to e-resources availability
- To study the problems faced by students and research scholars in accessing e-resources.

3. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The present study is confined to National College use of e- resources. The study covers only the Chemistry Department Students and Research scholars of the National College.

4. METHODOLOGY

In the present study, the questionnaire method has been adopted to collect information from both Students and research scholars working in chemistry departments of National College regarding 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. 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.

5. 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	Res.Sch.	%	M.Sc.	%	B.Sc.	%
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% Research Scholars 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 M.Sc. 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 B.Sc. 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	Res.Sch.	%	M.Sc.	%	B.Sc.	%
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 Research Scholars and Students also because there is no provision for card catalogue only uses OPAC.

Table 4: Awareness of E-Resources

Awareness	Res.Sch.	%	M.Sc.	%	B.Sc.	%
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% Research Scholars are aware of E-Resources similarly, 100% Student of M.Sc. are aware of E- Resources and the 90.91% student of B.Sc. 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	Res.Sch.	%	M.Sc.	%	B.Sc.	%
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 many sources and everyone got information many sources 33.33% Research Scholars, 71.43% M.Sc. students and 45.45% B.Sc. students get information about e-resources from Print journal and other sources also, 46.66% Research Scholars, 23.81% M.Sc. students and 34.09% B.Sc. students get information from Library professionals, while Teachers share 46.66% Research Scholars, 47.62% M.Sc. students and 56.81% B.Sc. students while through the Internet 13.33% Research Scholars, 9.52% M.Sc. students and 11.36% B.Sc. students know about the E- Resources. Discuss through the colleague 20% Research Scholars, 33.33% M.Sc. students

and 20.45% B.Sc. 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	Res.Sch.	%	M.Sc.	%	B.Sc.	%
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 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% Research Scholars, 80.95% M.Sc. students and 81.82% B.Sc. 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	Res.Sch.	%	M.Sc.	%	B.Sc.	%
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% Research Scholars, 52.38% M.Sc. and 31.82% B.Sc. of the user prefer it, than the HTML format which only 26.67% Research Scholar, 28.57% M.Sc. and 20.45% B.Sc. students use it and rest 26.67% Research Scholars, 19.05% M.Sc. and 47.73% B.Sc. students prefer Print copy only.

Table 8: Access Point for Searching Articles

Searching by	Res.Sch.	%	M.Sc.	%	B.Sc.	%
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% Research Scholars, 23.8% M.Sc. and 31.82% B.Sc. students like Subject headings searching the document and 40% Rs, 42.58% M.Sc. and 36.36% B.Sc. students like searching the document through keyword Searching and some use Title searching such as 20% Research Scholars, 19.07% M.Sc. and 15.91% B.Sc. students liking It and 20% Research Scholars, 14.48% M.Sc. and 15.91% B.Sc. 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	Res.Sch.	%	M.Sc.	%	B.Sc.	%
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% RS prefer depth (retrieval of a large number of records) and only 26.67% Research Scholars like relevance search for journal articles other it 66.67% M.Sc. like Depth search and 33.33% like Relevance search it means M.Sc. students also like Depth search but only 47.73% B.Sc. students like depth study and 52.27% B.Sc. students like Relevance study its mean most of B.Sc. students use E-journals only Relevance study.

Table 10: Awareness of E-resource Consortium

Awareness	Res.Sch.	%	M.Sc.	%	B.Sc.	%
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% Research Scholars in Department of Chemistry National College, they are aware of e-resource consortia, 90.48% M.Sc. students also know about E-resources consortia and only 9.52% are not aware of E-resources consortia and same most of B.Sc. students 56.82% are aware the E-resource consortia and 43.18% B.Sc. students are not aware to the E-resources consortium.

Table 11: Satisfaction with Infrastructural Facilities of E-resources

Satisfaction Level	Res.Sch.	%	M.Sc.	%	B.Sc.	%
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 Research Scholars 66.67%, M.Sc. students 80.95% and 79.55% B.Sc. students are fully satisfied with infrastructural facility provided to them for accessing e-resources and only 33.33% Research Scholars, 19.05% M.Sc. students and only 20.45% B.Sc. students are partially satisfied with E-Resources.

6. FINDINGS

- Research Scholars (100%) are aware of E-resources while majority of M.Sc. (100%) and B.Sc. students (90.91%) are aware of e-resources.
- Departmental computer lab was found to be a clear choice for accessing e-journals in department of Chemistry second being library computer lab.
- Major portion of Research Scholars and M.Sc student's access e-resources daily and B.Sc. 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 in both RS and Students.
- The study found that 20% Research Scholars search by subject headings 40% keyword and 20% through the title and 20% through the author prefer to search the articles, M.Sc. and B.Sc. students also most like keyword searching.
- In the articles search result as a depth material preferred for the reading Research Scholars (73.33%) and M.Sc. students (66.67%) while B.Sc. students (52.27%) preferred relevance search in journal articles.
- Majority of students and Research Scholars are aware of e-resources consortia. UGC INFONET was found to be the consortia used by the majority of M.Sc. students and Research Scholars and B.Sc. students also.
- Majority of Research Scholars 66.67%, M.Sc. 80.95% students and 79.55% B.Sc. students were found to be fully satisfied by the infrastructural facility for accessing e-resources, however only 33.33% Research Scholars, M.Sc. students 19.05% and 20.45% B.Sc. students were partially satisfied with the infrastructural facility for accessing e-resources.
- The study found that UGC-INFONET Consortium is most important and 100% Research Scholars use it and M.Sc. and B.Sc. students also use it regularly.

7. SUGGESTIONS

Based on the results and opinions of the respondents, the present study suggests the following:

- To provide the e-resources service effectively and efficiently, more number of access terminals should be installed in the Departmental Computer lab and Library Computer lab as well as in the computer centre laboratories.
- To save the precious time of the Research Scholars and students in the department of botany, high speed internet connection should be provided.
- Need of more trained and skilled staff, which is well aware of the functioning of both software and hardware, which can help the users in areas like accessing, downloading, and proper exploitation of the e-resources services.
- In order to improve the efficiency of the users towards access to electronic resources the library should provide hands on experience and conduct user orientation programmes to students, preferably at the start of every academic session.
- Proper feedback system should be introduced to know about various problems faced by the Research Scholars and students and to solve them effectively.
- The e-resources labs in the library and departments should provide printing facility to the students free of cost or at a nominal cost.
- More number of e-resource should be subscribed by the library in the fields of specialization, where only small numbers of e-resources are being subscribed.
- An adequate number of students suggested that necessary arrangements should be made to access the full text of more electronic resources.

8. CONCLUSION

The present study sought to examine the use of electronic resources by the students and research scholars, department of Chemistry National College, and the result show that most of the objectives are met satisfactorily; the study reveals that majority of research scholars and students are aware of e-resources. It has been found from the survey that maximum Research Scholars, M.Sc. students and B.Sc. students access e-resources through departmental Computer lab and Library computer lab also. Using e-resources for seminars was recognized as an important purpose for doing so in both the Research Scholars and M.Sc. students apart from using it for writing papers and finding relevant information in area of specialization. Majority of Research Scholars and M.Sc. students use e-journals daily and majority of B.Sc. students use e-resources 2-3 times in a week. A major portion of Research Scholars and 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. Research Scholars and M.Sc. students prefer depth, while relevance is preferred by B.Sc. students of department of Chemistry National College, Trichy. The present study found that majority of students are aware of e-resources consortia, and Research Scholars and M.Sc. 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 B.Sc. 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 B.Sc. and M.Sc. both feel that user training is useful for increasing the usage of e-resources among the students.

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