

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AND THEIR IMPACT ON ENGINEERING COLLEGES IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT– A STUDY

S. Ganesan<sup>1</sup> & N. Thirunavukkarasu<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of LIS, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

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### ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study is to analyze the awareness level of electronic resources and the impact of e-resources in Engineering College library. The Impact of the e-journals is more important for further development of academic institutions. The present study is conducted at four selected engineering colleges in Coimbatore district. The questionnaire was prepared and circulated both UG and PG students to collect data. The total numbers of respondent are 117. The study analyzed that respondents were aware of the e-journals and e-resources very well. From the 117 respondents maximum of 37.61% of respondents were used the e-resources in every day. Maximum of 76.07% of respondents are mentioned that it is very important for their studies. From the type of methods of browsing the e-resources preferred by the user is mentioned that 46.15% of users are using to type the relevant web address. This study recommends the selected engineering colleges have to improve their internet speed and access facilities for better usage of electronic resources.

**KEYWORDS:** Electronic Resources, Internet, E-Journals, E-Books, Search Engines

### INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries are considered all those libraries which serve the university, colleges and its affiliated organizations provide services to their students and faculty members. The academic library has the greatest potential of all campus entities to become the learner-centered environment for students. Academic libraries contribute in many significant ways to the missions of the colleges and universities. They are active partners in the teaching and research processes and support students and faculty through the provision of information resources and technology, spaces for individual and group work and study, programs and events, and assistance with finding, using and evaluating information. Technological advancements have made great amounts of information readily available in a digital format, thereby enabling faculty members to easily and remotely access information beyond the books and journals. Therefore students and faculty members have reduced their visits to the library and employing information-searching and retrieval processes through the external sources. Nowadays librarians develop more digital collections that are a major financial expense. This involves continuous consultation with the students and faculty members so as to understand and meet their needs.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Jagdish Arora**<sup>1</sup> stated that the libraries and information centers as heavy consumers of electronic journals and online databases. The users will benefit greatly from this technology-driven revolution. The INDEST would host a variety of Web-based digital resources including those available through national and international agencies with consortia and national licenses to provide access to authorized users in India.

**Amritpal Kaur**<sup>2</sup> mentioned this article reports a survey on the use of Internet services and resources in the engineering colleges of Punjab and Haryana states of India. The response rate was 80.8%. Results showed that all the respondents make frequent use of the Internet because they have access either at the college or at home. More than 75% of the respondent's use of the Internet services mainly for educational and research purposes.

**Veeranna S. Cholin**<sup>3</sup> explains this paper is an attempt to give an overview of Information Technology implementation in different university libraries in India. It provides effective access to resources available within universities and elsewhere. Also discussed in the role of the INFLIBNET Centre in the overall development of university libraries across the country with special emphasis on efforts through UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium.

**Hepu Deng**<sup>4</sup> reveals that the usage of electronic resources is common in a university environment with the rapid advance of information and communication technologies. It shows that the use of electronic resources is very much dependent on the user and the purposes of using electronic resources. The awareness and the quality of the available electronic resources are the two important factors for the effective and efficient use of electronic resources. The findings shed light on the use of electronic resources and help university libraries to understand better the perception and experience of users in using electronic resources.

**Thanuskodi.S**<sup>5</sup> examines to study the use of e-resources and investigate the factors that are a hindrance to their use. The present study is an attempt to examine the usage of electronic resources at Dr. T.P.M. Library, Madurai Kamaraj University. A study revealed that M.Phil. Student respondents took the first position in their overall methods of searching e-resources, postgraduate student respondents the second position, Ph.D. Scholar respondents the last position. The study confirmed that respondents were aware of the e-resources and various types of e-resources, e-database, and e-journals. The study recommended the improvement in the access facilities with high internet speed and subscription to more e-resources at Dr. T.P.M. Library, Madurai Kamaraj University.

## ENGINEERING COLLEGES IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT

In Coimbatore district there are more than 40 engineering colleges, (Self Financing) are available. Out of 40 colleges only six of them selected for this research.

- Park College of Engineering and Technology
- Sri Ranganathan Institute of Engineering & Technology
- PPG Institute of Technology
- Info Institute of Engineering
- Sriguru Institute of Technology

- Sri Sakthi Institute of Engineering & Technology

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study are as follows:

- Analyze the awareness of e-resources
- Examine the frequency of accessing the e-resources
- Analyze the purpose of using the e-resources
- Identify the time spend on accessing the e-resources
- Identify the difficulties in accessing the e-journals

## METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire method was made use of in collecting the data. The well-structured questionnaire was prepared and circulated to UG/PG students and faculty members and relevant data were obtained. The researcher classified the corrected raw data and put orders to transfer them into the master sheet. After coding, the data were tabulated using percentage for analyzing. The researcher also made use of the computer for analyzing the data. Finally, the tables are applied to study.

## DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter deals with analysis and interpretation of **Electronic Resources and their impact on Engineering Colleges in Coimbatore District – A Study**. It includes informant details like awareness of e-resources, the frequency of accessing, the purpose of using, types of e-journal packages, time spends on accessing and difficulties for accessing the e-resources. The researcher understood and appreciates the significance of his study through the analysis and interpretation of the data collected. The researcher used simple tables and statistical methods to expose the various outcomes and important findings of the study.

**Table 1: Gender Wise Respondents**

Sex	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	75	64.10
Female	42	35.90

Table 1 shows the gender wise respondents. From the total number of 117 respondents, 42 respondents are female and 75 are male.

**Table 2: Frequency of Accessing the E-resources**

Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Everyday	44	37.61
Once in a week	28	23.93
Twice in a week	17	14.53
Once in a month	14	11.97
Rarely	14	11.97

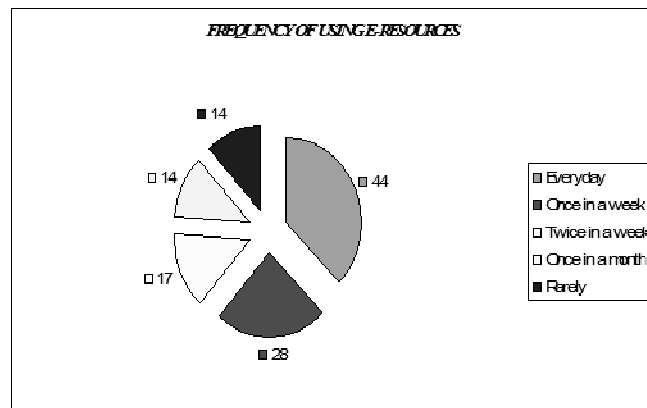


Figure 1

Table 2 shows the frequency of accessing the e-resources. From the 117 respondents, 44 respondents are used every day, 28 are used once in a week, 17 are twice in a week, 14 are once in a month and 14 respondents have rarely used the e-resources.

Table 3: Time Spend on Accessing the E-resources

Time	No. of Respondents	Percentage
0-5 Hours/Week	70	59.83
5-10 Hours/Week	37	31.62
10-15 Hours/Week	3	2.56
15-20 Hours/Week	3	2.56
Above 20 Hours/Week	4	3.42

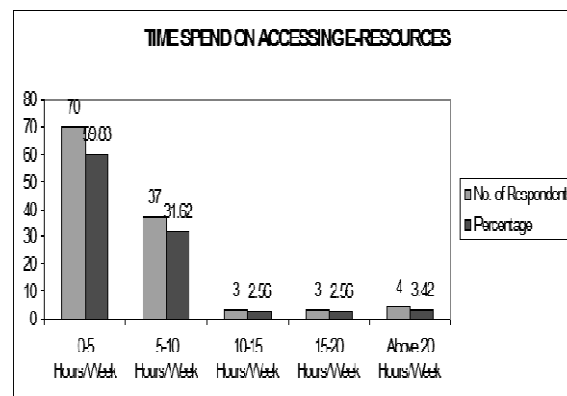


Figure 2

Table 3 shows the time spend on accessing the e-resources. From the 117 respondents, 70 respondents are using 0-5 hours, 37 respondents are using 5-10 hours, 3 respondents are using 10-15 hours, 3 respondents are using 15-20 hours and 4 respondents are using more than 20 hours per week.

Table 4: Type of Methods Following to Browse the E-resources

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Type the web address and Use search engines	34	29.06
Type the web address	54	46.15
Use search engines	27	23.08
Use subscription database	2	1.71

Table 4 shows the types of methods follow to browse the electronic resources. From the 117 respondents, 34 respondents are used to type the web address and search engines, 54 are used to type the web address, 27 are used the search engines and 2 respondents are used to the subscription database.

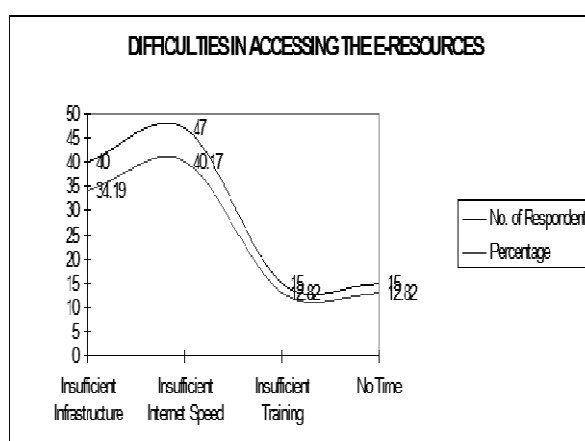
**Table 5: Usefulness of E-journal Packages for their Study**

E-Journal	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Very Important	89	76.07
Important	26	22.22
Somewhat important	1	0.85
Unimportant	0	0.00
Very much Unimportant	1	0.85

Table 5 shows the rating of electronic resources for their study. From the 117 respondents, 89 respondents are mentioned very important, 26 are important, 1 is somewhat important, and 1 respondents are very much unimportant.

**Table 6: Difficulties in Accessing the E-resources**

Difficulties	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Insufficient Infrastructure	40	34.19
Insufficient Internet Speed	47	40.17
Insufficient Training	15	12.82
No Time	15	12.82



**Figure 3**

Table 6 shows the difficulties in accessing the e-resources. From the 117 respondents, 40 respondents have mentioned the insufficient infrastructure, 47 respondents mentioned insufficient internet speed, 15 respondents mentioned insufficient training and 15 respondents are mentioned insufficient timing.

## FINDINGS

The researcher conducted a brief study on Electronic Resources and their impact on Engineering Colleges in Coimbatore District. The study came out with certain findings which are in accordance with the objectives.

- The findings of the frequency of accessing the e-resources reveal the fact maximum of 37.61% of respondents were used the e-resources in every day.

- The findings of analyzing the usefulness of e-resources for their study stated that the 76.07% of respondents are mentioned that it is very important for their studies.
- The findings of the type of methods of browsing the e-resources preferred by the user were 46.15% of users are using to type the relevant web address.
- The findings of the difficulties in accessing the e-journals stated that 40.17% of users mentioned the insufficient internet speed.

## CONCLUSIONS

The study reveals that awareness of e-journals, e-books, e-databases and online resources are aware of high level as well as usage. Majority of users can use the e-journal packages for their studies. The study findings that the majority of users using the e-resources every day. The study also reveals that there is a major problem faced while accessing e-resources is insufficient Internet speed and lack of sufficient system and infrastructure.

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