

**INFORMATION LITERACY ON USAGE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCE BY FACULTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE AFFILIATED TO ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY-A STUDY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Electronic Resource has become the one of the important form of information processing. Without the usage and production of E-Resources any research cannot exist today. Knowledge of producing E-Resource, Accessing E-Resource and using the same for research and development has become mandatory. In this study, the amount of literacy of students, staff and research scholars is studied extensively.*

**Keywords:** e-Resources, search engine, Information Literacy

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In this digital environment, most of the resources are available in electronic form which needs knowledge about the electronic resources and services. These electronic resources are either subscribed or made available through open access. In the academic libraries also, sizable amount is spent for procuring electronic resources. If the users are aware of the electronic resources, then the resources will be utilised effectively, otherwise, it will be great loss to

the institution. Information literacy plays vital role in accessing the electronic resources and most of the libraries in academic institutions are organising user orientation programme to make the users aware and utilise the resources effectively. In this connection, the researcher would like to know the level of awareness about the e-Resources and their information literacy level. Hence, this study will be more useful and significant one at this juncture.

**2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Following are the major objectives of the study

1. To study the Knowledge on using computer among the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University
2. To examine the use of various web tools among the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University
3. To find out the place of accessing the electronic resources among the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University
4. To find out Awareness on consortia used by the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University

5. To find out Source through which aware of e-Resources by the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University
6. To find out the level of **Training to access the e-Resources** the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University
7. To find out the Sources through which information is searched among the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University
8. To find out the Search Engines used for searching Information among the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University
9. To find out the Search Mechanism followed to search e-Resources among the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University
10. To find out the Information Literacy on Electronic Resources among the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University
11. . To find out the Satisfaction on Electronic Information Services among the faculty members and Research scholars of surveyed Arts and Science college affiliated to Alagappa University

### 3. STATISTICAL TOOLS APPLIED

In order to test the collected data, statistical techniques such as simple percentage, mean, standard deviation,

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), t test have been applied.

### 4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focused on the users' awareness on electronic resources and their level on information literacy. In this study, the users have been limited to the government and government aided colleges affiliated to Alagappa University. The study can be further extended to all the affiliated colleges of Alagappa University and also adding the post graduate students.

### 5. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Out of 31 constituent and affiliated colleges, only 8 government and

The samples selected for the study were research scholars and faculty members of the surveyed areas. Post graduate students

Apart from the above said limitations, the researcher feels that the information provided by the respondents considered being true and on the basis of

government aided colleges have been selected for the present study and guest faculty have not been included in the present study

which analysis has been made. Necessary care has been taken to ensure the above said limitations have not affected the validity of the data.

**6. POPULATION AND SAMPLING**

Questionnaires have been distributed among the faculty members and research scholars of the said eight colleges. 433

respondents have filled and returned the questionnaire.

**7. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

**Table-1 Knowledge on using computer**

Knowledge on using Computer	Level of knowledge		
	Large Extent	Some Extent	Less Extent
422	152 (36.0)	255 (60.4)	15 (3.6)

Out of 433 respondents, 422 respondents expressed that they have knowledge on using computer. Again, out of 422 respondents, majority of the respondents 255 (60.4%) have stated that they have some extent knowledge on using computer

followed by 152 (36.0%) stated large extent and only 3.6% have less extent knowledge. Finally, it is found that majority of the respondents have some extent knowledge on using the computer.

**Table 2. Use of Web tools and services**

Level of web tools and services	Very Large Extent	Large Extent	Some Extent	Less Extent
Blogs	50(11.84%)	116(27.5%)	131(30.3%)	104(24.7%)
Audio/video sharing	54(12.8%)	110(26.1%)	182(45.4%)	55(13.03%)
E-mail/Instant message/chat	141(33.5%)	144(35.9%)	104(24.7%)	12(2.9%)
Discussion groups	109(25.9%)	109(25.9%)	114(28.4%)	69(16.4%)
Wikis	56(13.3%)	133(33.2%)	116(27.5%)	96(22.8%)
Social book marketing	73(17.3%)	96(22.8%)	156(38.9%)	76(18%)
Social Networking	100(23.7%)	108(26.9%)	131(32.7%)	62(14.7%)
Content Management System	54(12.8%)	81(19.2%)	130(30.80%)	136(32.22%)

Highest number of respondents from all the colleges used large extent with e-Mail/instant message/chat 144 (35.9%), Wikis 133 (33.2%) and Social networking with 108 (26.9%) followed by second highest respondents used e-Mail very large extent whereas for wikis and social networking second largest number of respondents used some extent. It was also witnessed that social networking and e-Mail was used by less extent on the other least respondents used e-Mail very large extent. Whereas for Audio/video sharing, Social

book marketing, Blogs, and discussion groups, highest number of respondents 182 (45.4%), 156 (38.9%), 131 (32.7%), and 114 (28.4%) used some extent whereas highest number of respondents used CMS less extent. The second highest number of respondents used large extent with blogs, audio/video sharing, social networking and discussion groups with equal numbers used large extent and very large extent respectively. Least number of respondents used less extent with discussion groups, e-Mail, and social networking and also less

number of respondents were using very large extent with regard to blogs,

audio/video sharing, wikis, and social book marketing

**Table 3. Place of Accessing e-Resources**

Place of Accessing e-Resources	Home	Department	Library	Browsing Centres
Audio/Video Recordings	238 (58.0%)	68 (17.0%)	35 (8.7%)	60 (15.0%)
CD/DVD database	165 (41.1%)	140(34.9%)	58(13.75%)	38(9%)
E-Journals	80(19%)	70(16.6%)	222(50.4%)	29(6.9%)
Network-based services	84(20.9)	187(46.6%)	73(18.2%)	57(13.50%)
Internet Services	88(20.85%)	166(41.4%)	66(15.63%)	81(19.20%)
e-Books	44(10.42%)	41(9.71%)	262(65.3%)	54(12.8%)

It is identified that for accessing audio/video recordings, out of 401 respondents, majority of the respondents 238 (58.0%) have accessed the electronic resources and other places such as department, browsing centres and library were less used by the respondents and also to be noted that library was the last place used for accessing the electronic resources. Again for CD/DVD databases, home was the highest preferred area for accessing with 165 (41.1%) followed by department 140 (34.9%) was the second preferred place and library and browsing centres were the least preferred areas. On the other hand for e-Journals access, majority of the respondents 222 (50.4%) preferred library followed by 20.0% accessed from home and others have accessed from department and browsing

centres respectively. Whereas for network based services, highest number of respondents 187 (46.6%) opted department followed by 84 (20.9) and 73 (18.2) have accessed from home and library and only 187 (46.6) have accessed from browsing centres For Internet services, highest number of respondents 166 (41.4) have accessed from department followed by more or less equal number of respondents have stated that they have accessed internet services from home and browsing centres and less number of respondents opted library. With regard to e-Books, majority of the respondents 262 (65.3) have accessed the e-Books from library and remaining respondents have accessed from department, home and browsing centres.

**Table 4. Awareness on consortia**

Awareness on Consortia	Aware
UGC-INFONET	280(69.8%)
N-LIST	164(40%)
INDEST	73(17.3%)
FORSA	54(12.8%)
HELINET	21(4.10%)

Majority of the respondents 280 (69.8%) were aware of UGC-INFONET consortia followed by 164 (40.0%), which is the second highest number of respondents were aware of N-LIST and less number of

respondents were aware of consortia such as INDEST, FORSA and HELINET. Overall, majority of the respondents were aware of UGC-INFONET consortia and N-LIST.

**Table-5. Source through which aware of e-Resources**

Source	Awareness
Through Personal Communication	227 (56.6)
Seminars and Conferences	349 (87.0)
Bibliographical Sources in printed materials	148(30%)
Citation in e-Resources	165(32%)
Use of Internet Search	269(61.7%)
Through Library Staff	192(39%)
Through Course Materials	131(20%)
Through Friends	259(64.6% <sup>3</sup> )
Self Learning	244(60.8%)

Majority of the respondents 349 (87.0%), 269 (67.1%), 259 (64.6%), 244 (60.8%) and 227 (56.6%) opined that they used the sources such as seminar and conferences, Internet, Friends, self-learning and through personal communication. The next sources used by them were library staff,

citation in e-Resources and least preferred sources were bibliographic sources in printed materials and course materials. Overall, it is noted that majority of the respondents preferred seminars and conferences, Internet, friends, self-learning and personal communication.

**Table-6. Training to access the e-Resources**

Training	Nos.	Method of Providing Information Literacy			
		Materials available through course materials	Optional Literacy courses	Whenever required (90)	Orientation Programme
Yes	333	129(38.74%)	167(50.15%)	142(42.64%)	137(41.14%)

Out of 401 respondents, high majority of the respondents 333 (83.0%) expressed that training is provided on information literacy and again it is found that majority of the respondents 167 (50.15%) stated that literacy programme courses were optional followed by 142 (42.64%) stated that the programme is organized whenever needed and 129

(38.74%) stated they could access the materials by literacy through course materials. Combining all, it is found that majority of the respondents expressed that information literacy courses were optional and second highest number of respondents stated that information literacy programme is being organised whenever needed.

**Table7. Sources through which information is searched**

Sources	Nos.
Through Internet	173(41.3%)
Search Engines	209(52.1%)
Library Portal	57(9.0%)
Web Directory	64(12%)
Blogs	129(32.2%)

It is noticed from the Table --- that majority of the respondents 209 (52.1%) mentioned that they searched the information with the help of search engines followed by second and third highest number of respondents stated that they searched the information through internet and blogs with 173 (41.3%) and 129

(32.2%) respectively. Other options such as web directory and library portal were the least preferred sources for searching information. Thus, it is found that majority of the respondents used search engines followed by second and third highest number of respondents used internet and blogs respectively.

**Table-8. Search Engines used for searching Information**

Search Engines	Nos.
Yahoo	199(49.6%)
Altavista	154(30%)
Google	246(61.3%)
Infoseek	124(58%)

Again, among the search engines used, it is noticed from the table – that majority of the respondents 246 (61.3%) and 199 (49.6%) were using Google and yahoo search engines and it was also noticed that more than one-third and above 30.0% of the

respondents were using AltaVista and infoseek search engines for searching the information. To sum up, majority of the respondents were using Google and yahoo search engines for searching their information.

**Table9. Search Mechanism followed to search e-Resources**

Search Mechanism	Nos.
Using author name	168(41.9%)
Using Title	198(49.4%)
Boolean Logic Operators	65(10%)
Web site address	97(15%)
Using Subject entry	138(34.4%)

It is found from the Table that almost majority of the respondents 198 (49.4%) have used title as the source for searching the information through electronic resources followed by next highest respondents 168 (41.9% and 138 (34.4%) used author name

and subject entry for searching the information and web site address and Boolean logic operators were the least used mechanism for searching the information through electronic resources. Overall, highest number of respondents used title,

author as the search mechanism and less number of respondents have used web site

address and Boolean logic operators.

**Table-10. Hindrances faced while accessing the e-Resources**

Hindrances	Nos.
Slow access speed	164(40.9%)
Difficulty in finding relevant information	97(20%)
Overloaded information	105(26.2%)
Lack of time	164(40.9%)
Lack of sufficient subject expertise	83(21%)
Lack of Infrastructure facilities	70(15%)

It is witnessed from the Table --- that almost equal number of respondents 164 (40.9%) and 164 (40.9%) have stated that lack of time and slow access speed were the hindrances faced followed by 105 (26.2%) mentioned that overloaded information and about 21.0% of the respondents stated lack of sufficient subject expertise and difficulty

in finding the relevant information were the problems faced by the respondents and lack of infrastructure facilities were the last opted choice. Overall, highest number of respondents stated that lack of time and slow access speed followed by overload of information and lack of infrastructure facilities were the least one.

**Table-11. Information Literacy on Electronic Resources**

Statements	Very Comfortable	Comfortable	Undecided	Uncomfortable
I can formulate search easily for my information needs	77(27.8%)	149(53.79%)	51(18.41%)	0(0)
I can easily identify the relevant information	55(19.86%)	167(60.29%)	52(18.77%)	3(1.08%)
I can easily identify the information whether updated or not	54(19.49%)	123(44.4%)	97(35.02%)	3(1.08%)
I can easily evaluate the accuracy of the information	69(24.91%)	132(47.65%)	60(21.66%)	16(5.78%)
I can organise and use the information for future use	40(14.44%)	151(54.51%)	68(24.55%)	18(6.5%)
I can integrate new information with	50(18.05%)	153(55.23%)	60(21.66%)	14(5.05%)

available e-Information				
I can solve problems while accessing electronic information	29(10.47%)	147(53.07%)	80(28.88%)	21(7.58%)
I can retrieve electronic information using Boolean Logic operators	44(15.88%)	125(45.13%)	67(24.19%)	41(14.8%)

It was also noticed that second highest number of respondents stated that they formulate search easily, identify the relevant information and could evaluate the accuracy of the information, whereas second largest respondents have undecided for the

statements such as the identified information is updated or not, preserve the information for future use, integrate new information with available information, solve problems while accessing and use Boolean logic operators.

**Table-12. Satisfaction on Electronic Information Services**

Statements	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average
Opinion about the reliability of e-Resources	80(28.88%)	129(46.57%)	56(20.22%)	12(4.33%)
Opinion on use of e-Resources for academic purpose	54(19.49%)	145(52.35%)	72(25.99%)	6(2.17%)
Opinion on use of e-Resources for research purpose	67(24.19%)	121(43.68%)	80(28.88%)	9(3.25%)
Meeting of information needs	41(14.8%)	118(42.6%)	93(33.57%)	25(9.03%)
Library professionals attitude in locating the information	49(17.69%)	74(26.71%)	117(42.24%)	37(13.36%)
Repetition	39(14.08)	73(26.35)	128(46.21)	34(12.27)
Opinion on available infrastructure facilities	34(12.27%)	71(25.63%)	119(42.96%)	50(18.05%)
Opinion on IT facilities	39(14.08%)	91(32.85%)	95(34.3%)	52(18.77%)
Awareness created by LIS professionals	33(11.91%)	81(29.24%)	125(45.13%)	38(13.72%)
Opinion on library services	47(16.97%)	83(29.96%)	112(40.43%)	35(12.64%)

No respondent have stated uncomfortable for formulate search for information needs, only one respondent has uncomfortable with identifying relevant

information and identifying whether the information is updated one or not. Excerpt use of Boolean logic operators, there was no



much difference with other statements with

regard to uncomfortable.

## 8. FINDINGS

Following were the suggestions drawn from the findings

It is found that majority of the respondents have some extent knowledge on using computers. In this digital environment, knowledge on using computer is very much necessary; otherwise it is not possible to

Except e-Journals, e-Books, and e-Newspapers, highest number of respondents from all the colleges have stated that they were aware some extent of e-Resources such as e-Directories, Institutional Repositories, e-Reports, subject gateways, Wikipedia, e-Databases, e-Manuscripts, Social Media

Except UGC-INFONET consortia, majority of the respondents were not aware of N-LIST, INDEST, FORSA consortia. In these days, majority of the libraries have

It is found that users were aware of the e-Resources through various sources such as seminars, conferences, Internet,

access the electronic resources. Hence, computer knowledge must be imparted to the teaching and research community in order to utilize the e-Resources effectively.

Open Access Resources and e-Theses and dissertations. This shows that majority of the respondents were not aware of the above mentioned e-Resources. Hence, orientation programme must be organized periodically in order to educate e-Resources among the academic and research community.

started acquiring more resources through consortia. Hence, user awareness programme should be periodically organized in order to utilize the resources effectively.

friends etc and library was considered next. Hence, library staff should motivate the respondents to utilize the resources.

## 9. CONCLUSION

From above findings, it is evident that the awareness level of e-resources is increasing day by day. Though it is improving, there are lots of difficulties faced by the research scholars of several non-computer users. There is an abundant need to improve the computer and information and communication related knowledge among the users, staff and research scholars.

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