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A STUDY ON E-INFORMATION USAGE AMONG THE RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF MADURAI KAMARAJ UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

This paper sets out to investigate the use of E-information behaviour among the research scholars of Madurai Kamaraj University. The study found that More than two fifth of the respondents search the E-information by the Title of Article. Two third of the respondents agree with the quality of E-information for academic/research work. More than two fifth of the respondents cite that lack of facilities is main problems in accessing E-information. Nearly half of the respondents agree with E-information has developed their academic skills. 30.95% respondents are awareness to reach the UGC-INFONET E-journals by Library Professionals. More than two fifths of the respondents access the UGC-INFONET journals to get current Information about recent research.
Keywords: *Use of E- Resources, E-information usage, Internet usage, Digital Information*

Introduction

Today's information technologies have been justly celebrated as democratizing information production and access. On the Web, we can find an enormous range of information of potential value. Determining what out of all this will be saved, and by whom, will require innumerable local judgments. Determining how Web resources can be saved will require some large national and international decisions about best practices, standards, and organizational structuring. Archiving digital works and records is a pressing need that engages attention at home and abroad with efforts under way at national libraries and archives, including both the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration here in the United States; research libraries and universities; and non- profit organizations. There is also evidence that the entertainment, publishing, and other content industries are coming to realize the potential commercial importance of future use of their content, which means attention to preservation now. Librarians inherit a tradition of local and global coordinated practice and procedures- namely, interlibrary loan, shared cataloging and the development of directories of microform and manuscript collections, practices that are perpetuated through library school, professional training and continuing education.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the E-Information usage among the research scholars of Madurai Kamaraj University.

2. To find out the search options in accessing E-recourses.
3. To study the time spend in use of E-Information
4. To get the opinion respondents' opinion regarding the satisfaction with the quality of E-Information for Academic/Research work
5. To find out the problems in accessing E-resources.
6. To get the Opinion on E-Information regarding the development of research activities of research scholars.

Methodology

The present study is descriptive. Primary data have been collected by Questionnaires from the scholars of Biotechnology and Chemistry schools in Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. A total number of 100 questionnaires were randomly distributed to the Ph.D and M.Phil scholars of School of Biotechnology and Chemistry at Madurai Kamaraj University and 84 Questionnaires were received by the researchers. Primary data have been collected on February 2016.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Table 1 Distribution of Respondents according to Gender and Age

Particulars		No of Respondents	Percentage
Gender	**Age**		
Male	20 to 25 Years	14	16.67
	26 to 30	24	28.57
	31 to 35	6	7.14
	36 to 40	1	1.19
	41 and above	-	-
Female	20 to 25 Years	20	23.81
	26 to 30	15	17.86
	31 to 35	4	4.76
	36 to 40	-	-
	41 and above	-	-
Total		**84**	**100**

Source: Primary data

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents according to Gender and age. Among the male respondents, a majority of 24 (28.57%) respondents belong to the category of age between 26 to 30, and it is followed by 14(16.67%) belong to the category of age between 20 to 25 Years, 6(7.14%) belong to the category of age between 31 to 35 and 1(1.19%)

belong to the category of age between 36 to 40. Among the female respondents, a majority of 20(23.81%) respondents belong to the category of age between 20 to 25 Years , and it is followed by 15(17.86%) belong to the category of age between 26 to 30, 4(4.76%) belong to the category of age between 31 to 35 Hence a more than one fourth of the male respondents belong to the category of age between 26 to 30 and Nearly one fourth of the female respondents belong to the category of age between 20 to 25 Years.

Table 2 Distribution of Respondents According to School and Qualification-Wise

S. No	Name of the School	Qualification (%)		Total (%)
		M.Phil	Ph.D	
1.	Biotechnology	10(31.25)	22(68.75)	32(100)
2.	Chemistry	18(34.62)	34(65.38)	52(100)
Total		28	56	84

Source: Primary data

Table 2 describes the distribution of respondents according to School and Qualification-wise. Among the Biotechnology respondents, a majority of 22(68.75%) respondents belong to Ph.D scholars, and it is followed by 10(31.25%) M.Phil scholars respectively. Among the Chemistry respondents, a majority of 34(65.38%) of them are Ph.D scholars while 18(34.62%) M.Phil scholars respectively. Hence a majority of the Biotechnology and Chemistry respondents belong to Ph.D scholars.

Table 3 Distribution of Respondents According to Gender and Residing Sector-Wise

Particulars		No of Respondents	Percentage
Gender	Residing sector		
Male	Urban	22	26.19
	Rural	23	27.38
Female	Urban	18	21.43
	Rural	21	25
Total		**84**	**100**

Source: Primary data

Data have been presented in table 3 reveals the distribution of respondents according to Gender and Residing sector -wise. Among the male respondents, a majority of 23 (27.38%) respondents belong to rural areas while 22(26.19%) urban areas respectively. Among the female respondents, a majority of 21(25%) respondents belong to rural areas

while 18(21.43%) urban areas respectively. Hence a majority of the male and female respondents belong to rural areas.

Table 4 Search Options in Accessing E-Information

S.No	Search options	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Title of Article	39	46.43
2.	Subject	29	34.52
3.	Author	19	22.62
4.	Key Word	34	40.48
5.	Publisher	15	17.86
6.	Journal Title	24	28.57
	Total	**84**	

Source: Primary data

Table 4 shows that 84 respondents search the E-information by title of article whose percentage is 46.43 and it is followed by 34 (40.48%) respondents search by Key word, 29 (34.52%) respondents subject –wise, 24 (28.57%) respondents Journal title-wise, 19 (22.62%) respondents author of the article and 15 (17.86) respondents publisher of the article. Hence more than two fifth of the respondents search the E-information by the Title of Article.

Table 5 Chi-Square Analysis of Time Spend on Use of E-information Per Day by School- Wise Respondents

S. No	Name of the School	Frequency (%)					Total N
		One Hour	Two Hours	Three Hours	Four Hours	More than Four Hours	
1.	Biotechnology	6(18.7)	8(25)	7(21.88)	6(18.75)	5(15.63)	32(100)
2.	Chemistry	12(23.1)	11(21.15)	5(9.62)	6(11.54)	18(34.62)	52(100)
Total		18	**19**	**12**	12	23	84

Source: Primary data Chi –square value: 5.71 df=4

Data presented in table 5 discusses the Chi- square analysis of time spend on use of E-information per day by School-wise respondents. Among the School of Biotechnology respondents, a majority of 8 (25%) respondents spend two hours and it is followed by 6(18.7%) respondents spend an hour, and four hours, 5(15.63%) respondents spend more than four hours respectively. Among the School of Chemistry respondents, a majority of 18(34.62%) of them spend more than four hours, and it is followed by 12(23.1%) respondents an hour, 11(21.15%) two hours, 6(11.54%) four hours and 5(9.62%) three hours.

It is concluded that among the overall respondents 27.39% of the respondents spend more than four hours for accessing E-information.

Testing of Hypothesis

Ho: Null Hypothesis

There is no association between the School of Biotechnology and School of Chemistry respondents and their time spend on use of E-information per day.

H_1: Alternative Hypothesis

There is an association between the School of Biotechnology and School of Chemistry respondents and their time spend on use of E-information per day.

Chi-Square Summary Result

Chi-Square Calculated	Degrees of	Chi-Square Table Value @
5.71	**4**	**9.488**

The table value of χ^2 for 4 degrees of freedom at 5% level of significance is 9.488**.** The calculated value of χ^2 is higher than this table value and hence the Null hypothesis is accepted and hence Alternative hypothesis is rejected. It is concluded that there is no association between the School of Biotechnology and School of Chemistry respondents and their time spend on use of E-information per day.

Table 6 Opinion about the Satisfaction with the Quality of E-information for Academic/Research Work

S. No	Opinion	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	13	15.48
2.	Agree	57	67.86
3.	No Comments	8	9.52
4.	Disagree	3	3.57
5.	Strongly Disagree	3	3.57
Total		**84**	**100**

Source: Primary data

It is understood from table 6 that among the overall 84 respondents, a majority of 57 (67.86%) respondents agree with the quality of E-information for academic/research work. In this study, 13(15.48%) respondents strongly agree, 8(9.52%) respondents have not expressed any comment, 3(3.57%) disagree and strongly disagree respectively. Therefore majority of the respondents agree with the quality of E-information for academic/research work.

Table 7 Problem in Accessing E-information

S. No	Problem	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Lack of Facilities	37	44.05
2.	Lack of Training	15	17.86
3.	Lack of Knowledge on E information	12	14.29
4.	Lack of Time	24	28.57
5.	Others	5	5.95
	Total N =84		

Source: Primary data

It is evident from table 7 that among the overall 84 respondents, a majority of 37(44.05%) respondents cite that problem in using E-information is lack of facilities and it is followed by, 24(28.57%) lack of time, 15(17.86%) lack of training, 12(14.29%) lack of Knowledge on E-information. Besides cited above, there are some other problems also 5(5.95%) It is concluded that more than two fifth of the respondents cite that lack of facilities is main problems in accessing E-information.

Table 8 Opinion on E-Information has Developed Academic Skills

S. No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	14	16.67
2.	Agree	40	47.62
3.	No Comments	15	17.86
4.	Disagree	13	15.48
5.	Strongly Disagree	2	2.38
Total		**84**	**100**

Source: Primary data

It is understood from table 8 that among the overall 84 respondents, a majority of 40(47.62%) respondents agree with the E-information has developed their academic skills and it is followed by 15(17.86%) respondents have not expressed any comments, 14(16.67%) respondents strongly agree, 13(3.57%) disagree and 2(2.38%) strongly disagree respectively. Therefore nearly half of the respondents agree with E-information has developed their academic skills.

Table 9 Opinion about the Sources of Awareness to Reach the UGC-INFONET E-journals

S. No	Sources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Library Professionals	26	30.95
2.	Computer Staff	6	7.14
3.	Friends	13	15.48
4.	Teacher/Research Guides	10	11.90
5.	Advertisements	7	8.33
6.	World Wide Web	11	13.10
7.	University Website	17	20.24
8.	Others	2	2.38
	Total N=84		

Source: Primary data

It could be observed from table 9 that among the overall 84 respondents, a majority of (30.95%) respondents are awareness to reach the UGC-INFONET E-journals by Library Professionals, and it is followed by 17(20.24%) University Website, 13(15.48%) Friends, 11(13.10%) World Wide Web, 10(11.90%) Teacher/Research Guides, 7(8.33%) advertisements and 6 (7.14%) computer staff. Besides cited above, there are other sources also 2(2.38%).

Table 10 Purpose of Using UGC-INFONET Journals

S. No	Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Current Information about recent research	36	42.86
2.	For Teaching	17	20.24
3.	For Guiding Research Students	12	14.29
4.	For getting Review of Literature	22	26.19
5.	For Writing Books/Writing Research Articles	14	16.67
6.	Updating Subject Area	14	16.67
7.	Completion of Assignment/Seminar Presentation	9	10.71
8.	Others	3	3.57
		Total N =84	

Source: Primary data

It is evident from table 10 that among the overall respondents, a majority of 36 (42.86%) respondents cite that purpose of using UGC-INFONET journals is getting current

information of recent research and this is followed by 22 (26.19%) for getting review of literature, 17(20.24%) for teaching, 14(16.67%) for writing Books/Writing Research Articles and Updating Subject Area, 12(14.29%) for guiding Research Students and 9(10.71%) for Completion of Assignment/Seminar Presentation. Besides cited above, there are some other purposes also 3(3.57%). It is concluded that more than two fifth of the respondents use UGC-INFONET journals for getting Current Information about Recent Research.

Findings

- 28.57% of the male research scholars belong to the age category of 26-30.
- 23.81% of the female research scholars belong to the age category of 20-25.
- Among the overall respondents 66.67% of them belong to Ph.D scholars.
- 27.38% of the male respondents belong to rural areas
- 25% female respondents belong to rural area.
- More than two fifth of the respondents search the E-information by the Title of Article.
- There is no association between the School of Biotechnology and School of Chemistry respondents and their time spend on use of E-information per day.
- Two third of the respondents agree with the quality of E-information for academic/research work
- More than two fifth of the respondents cite that lack of facilities is main problems in accessing E-information.
- Nearly half of the respondents agree with E-information has developed their academic skills.
- 30.95% of the respondents are awareness to reach the UGC-INFONET E-journals by Library Professionals.
- More than two fifths of the respondents access the UGC-INFONET journals to get current Information about recent research.

Conclusion

Electronic documents have many characteristics that are not shared by paper documents. We may include new types of publishable artifacts in our electronic documents including simulations of physical processes, original data, active citations, and entries that have previously been embedded in different media. The structure of electronic documents is available for querying and full – text indexing can be a natural byproduct of storage in an electronic repository. These documents are more fluid, in the sense of being changed easily, and multiple versions may be stored and referenced. New computer based tools and global networking are bringing the capability to publish to the individual and small group. Educators (and students) are beginning to build personal digital libraries of electronic artifacts and references to Internet information resources. A majority of the research

scholars access the UGC- Infonet journals for their research work. The study proves that E-Information has developed academic skills of the research scholars of Biotechnology and Chemistry at Madurai Kamaraj University.

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