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USE PATTERN OF SCHOLARLY INFORMATION RESOURCES BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF MADURAI KAMARAJ UNIVERSITY, MADURAI

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Abstract

In this study an attempt is being made to highlight the access to user pattern of scholarly Information resources in the selected departments at Madurai Kamaraj University. University Libraries, particularly in recent past are providing some of notable information services that can be accessed via the university library websites are Web OPAC, latest addition display, data search, and federated search, access to full text and bibliographic databases, online document delivery, access to institutional repository and open access resources, databases and multimedia access resources, live chat, compilation of research profile, web based CAS and SDI, remote access and so on. The study is based on both Primary and Secondary sources.

Key words*: Information Resources, Notable Information Services, Web OPAC, Access to Institutional Repository and Remote Access.*

Introduction

Libraries and Information Centers have been employing use and user pattern information resources and services to satisfy the diverse information needs of their users. Library services, CD-ROM databases, online databases, web-based services, and a variety of other electronic media are replacing the traditional services of libraries. It also points out the need for assessing the impact of the Web based Services in the University Libraries on the users of the libraries. University Libraries launch their websites with a view to provide services to users without their physical presence.

Methodology

The present study is descriptive in nature and it is a case study on the "Use Pattern of Scholarly Information Resources by the Faculty Members and Research Scholars of Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai". The researcher has chosen descriptive research design and the method is normative survey. The survey is also analytical in terms of collecting the details of the use of web based information services in the selected departments at Madurai Kamaraj University library. This covers descriptors such as objectives of the library information services, the process, the impact of user's practices, e-resources required and the data have been collected using structured Questionnaire.

Objectives of the Study

The present study aims with following objectives:

- Subject Wise Distribution of selected Departments in the Responses
- Distribution of Respondents According to Designation
- Publications Distribution of Respondents
- Sources of Information Gathering
- Time spent per week for Information gathering activities
- Use of Library
- Usage of Electronic information sources

Table - 1
Subject Wise Distribution of selected Departments in the Responses

S. No	Name of the Department	No. of Questionnaire Distributed	No. of Response Received	Percentage
1	Chemistry	20	19	95.00
2	Biotechnology	20	18	90.00
3	Commerce	20	17	85.00
4	Physics	20	16	80.00
5	Management	20	15	75.00
Total		**100**	**85**	**85.00**

Subject wise distribution of questionnaire and response rate among the respondents do differ with a high response rate, moderate and poor responses. Among the respondents, from the selected different disciplines, Chemistry has the highest response (95.00 percent), which is followed by Biotechnology (90.00 percent) and Commerce (85.00 percent), Physics (80.00 percent) and Management (75.00 percent).

Table - 2
Distribution of Respondents According to Designation

S. No	Designation	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Professors	11	12.94
2	Associate Professors	13	15.29
3	Assistant Professors	25	29.42
4	Students	36	42.35
Total		**85**	**100.00**

The above table revealed that the designation wise distribution of the respondents in the Kamaraj University. Majority of the respondents were Students 36 (42.35percent). The surveyed respondents also include Assistant Professors 25 (29.42 percent), Associate Professor 13 (15.29 percent) and Professors 11 (12.94 percent).

Table - 3
Publications Distribution of Respondents

S. No	Publications	Total	Percentage
1	Yes	79	92.94
2	No	06	7.06
Total		**85**	**100.00**

Among the 85 respondents, above ninety two percent of the respondents have been published their own publications. The remaining percent (7.06 percent) of the respondents were not published any more publications.

Table - 4
Sources of Information Gathering

S. No	Methods of Information Gathering	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Not at all	Total
1	By Browsing Internet	81	2	1	1	85
2	Reading electronic journals	73	8	3	1	85
3	By attending conferences/Seminars/ Symposiums, etc	72	10	2	1	85
4	By discussing with colleagues	68	12	3	2	85
5	Through professional mail forums and social networks	55	17	10	3	85
6	E-Alert	53	15	12	5	85
7	Through searching literature	50	21	10	4	85
8	Other	42	25	13	5	85

Table reveals that the respondents behaviour on gathering information from various sources, 81 respondents gather the information “By browsing Internet” frequently followed by 73 of respondents gather the information “By reading electronic journals”, 72 of respondents gather the information “By attending conferences/seminars/symposium”,

while 68 of respondents "By discussing with their colleagues" and 55 of respondents are "Through professional mail forums and social networks".

Table - 5

Time spent per week for Information gathering activities

S. No	Information gathering activities	1-3hrs	4-6hrs	7-10hrs	More than 10 hrs
1	Accessing Internet	74	6	3	2
2	e-mail alerts/mail forums	69	10	5	1
3	Social networks	59	16	8	2
4	Access e-journals and e-books	58	14	10	3
5	Discussion with co-workers or others experts	53	16	9	7
6	Others	49	21	10	5

It is found from the above table that a maximum of the respondents (74) spent up to 1 to 3 hours per week for accessing internet for their informational needs, 69 of the respondents spent 1 to 3 hours per week for accessing e-mail alerts. It is also found that 59 of the respondents conferring with Social networks, Discussion with co-workers or others experts by the respondents (16) per week 4 to 6 hours. It is also note that 2 of respondents spent more than 10 hours on accessing internet, 1 of respondent to mail and access alerts some mail forums and the 3 percentage of respondent spent more than 10 hours an accessing e-journals and e-books.

Table - 6

Use of Library

S. No	Category	Numbers	Percentage
1.	Daily	27	31.76
2.	Twice a week	20	23.53
3.	Once in a week	14	16.47
4.	Fortnightly	12	14.12
5.	Once a Month	09	10.59
6.	Never	03	3.53
Total		**85**	**100.00**

It is found from the table that the surveyed respondents generally visit the library Daily (31.76 percent) and Twice a week (23.53 percent), while a few of them (10.59 percent) visit library Once a Month and 3 (3.53 percent) respondents never visit the library.

Table - 7

Usage of Electronic information sources

S. No	Types of Purpose	Frequently	Some times	Rarely	Not at all
1	E-Journals	80	3	1	1
2	E-Databases	79	3	2	1
3	E-Books	76	5	4	0
4	Offline Database /	70	9	4	2

	Online Database				
5	UGC Infonet e-resources	68	10	5	2
6	Any other	55	12	10	8

It is found from the study that surveyed respondents are familiar and use different types of electronic information resources. The ranking of e-resources among the respondents could reveal that E-Journals as the first rank by a large group of respondents (80), E-Databases got second preference among the next major group of respondents (79), followed by e-Books (76) as third rank and while Offline Database / Online Database (70) as fourth rank, UGC Infornet e-resources as fifth rank (68).

Conclusion

The analysis of data to make inferences and interpretations in a scientific manner applying appropriate tools help the researcher to derive findings and conclusions of the study has been made. This analyzes the primary data collected through survey of questionnaire on selected parameters that enable to tabulate the data and thus interpretations are inferred. Social networking, Bookmarking sites and web technologies including mobile apps need to be integrated with University library websites towards the future digital information services.

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