



Users' Perception towards Digital Information Resources with Special Reference to Arts & Science Colleges in Erode District, Tamilnadu

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Abstract - National Knowledge Commission stated (2007) that "Libraries have recognized social function in making knowledge publicly available to all, They serve as local centers of information and learning and are local gateways to national and global Knowledge" Now a days Libraries are not limited to print documents, it also includes its resources on electronics. Electronic resources existing as open access by Open Access Initiatives (OAI) such online resources must be carry into the light for better usage through the arrival of ICT technologies. So the boundless web resources can be used only by Familiarizing of accessible resources to the user community. In addition to giving online subscription services given that information on open access resources also significant in the present situation. For faculties, including basic computing skills latest changes in ICT also important one for professional serviceability.

Keywords: Internet, Digital information resources, search engines etc.,

I. INTRODUCTION

Faculties are the mediators to bring right information to the learner through well designed teaching-learning programs using both traditional as well as electronic information resources either through formal or non-formal scheme of education. But the quality of electronic information resources affects the end product of education. Hence, the study is entitled as "users' attitude towards digital information resources special reference to Arts & Science colleges in Erode District, Tamilnadu".

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

An objective of the study includes the following:

- To know the purposes for which the Arts & Science college faculties are using the internet
- To identify the frequency of using digital information resources
- To evaluate the most preferred search engine used by Arts & Science college faculties.
- To find out the barrier and difficulty faced by the faculties while accessing and using digital information resources
- To analyze the most important format select by the Arts & Science College faculties when browsing digital resources
- To suggest appropriate recommendations to develop the digital information resources and services for the benefit of faculties

III. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The following hypotheses are framed for the study

- Arts & Science college faculties are well aware of the quality of digital information resources.
- Arts & Science college faculties are depending more on digital rather than traditional one

IV. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study is based on a sample of 15 arts & science college faculties in Erode District, Tamilnadu. Data collected for this study is based on convenient random sampling. The study is limited only to the Arts & Science college faculties.

V. METHODOLOGY

The present study aims to describe the approach of Arts & Science college faculties on digital information resources. Hence the researcher has adopted survey method for data collection using stratified random sampling method and descriptive statistics has been used for the interpretation of the data.

VI. ANALYSIS OF DATA

The samples for this study consists of 94 Arts & Science college faculties form 15 colleges. The age of the faculties responding to the questionnaire varies from 25 to 62 years. Out of 94 Arts & Science college faculties, 57 are male and

the remaining are female. Again 39 respondents are of rural background and the remaining 55 are from urban areas, 37 from humanities and science faculty and the remaining 57 are from Arts & Science faculty.

A. Purpose of Using Internet

The purpose of using the digital information resources by the Arts & Science college faculties by the order of preference is depicted in Table 1.

Table 1. Purpose of using digital information resources (n=94)

S. No.	Purpose	No. of users	%
1	Preparation to class room	65	69.14
2	Teaching	30	31.91
3	Research work	26	27.66
4	For knowledge	19	20.21
5	Other activities	8	8.51

Note: because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%

Table 1 explains that the first and foremost purpose of using internet by college faculties is for preparation to class room teaching, research work, for the earning of knowledge and individual learning.

B. Frequency of using digital information resources

Table 2. Frequency of using digital information resources (n=94)

S. No.	Duration of Internet use	No. of users	%
1	Less than 5 hours	58	61.70
2	5 – 10 hours	35	37.23
3	Greater than 10 hours	9	9.57

Form the table 2, it is indicates that most (61.70%) of the arts & science college faculties are using digital information resources less than five hours in a week. It is followed by (37.23%) using digital information resources for 5 – 10 hours in a week and only (9.57%) are using digital information resources for more than 10 hours in a week. This shows that they are depending more on traditional sources than digital information resources.

C. Use of digital information resources

Table 3: use of digital information resources (n=94)

S. No.	Type digital information resources	No. of users	%
1	CD-ROM	34	36.17
2	Internet	85	90.42
3	E-journals	46	48.93
4	Online databases	25	26.60
5	E-books	17	18.08
6	OPAC	10	10.63

Note: because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%

Table 3 shows that maximum numbers (90.42%) of arts & science college faculties are using internet, followed by (48.93%) using E-journals, 36.17% of faculties using CD-ROM, 26.60% faculties are using online databases, 18.08% and 10.63% respondents using e-books and OPAC.

D. Preference on Using Search Engine

Table 4. Preference of using search engines (n=94)

S. No.	Search Engines	No. of users	%
1	Google	81	86.17
2	Yahoo	52	55.32
3	Altavista	24	25.53
4	MSN	19	20.21
5	Any other	16	17.02

Note: because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%

Table 4 shows that (86.17%)most of the faculties using Google search engines, followed by (55.32%) using Yahoo. 25.53% respondents using AltaVista, 20.21% and 17.02% respondents are using MSN and other search engines respectively to access information in the internet.

E. Most Preferred Format

Table 5. Most preferred format (n=94)

S. No.	Format	No. of users	%
1	MS Word	30	31.91
2	PDF	55	58.51
3	HTML	21	22.34
4	Both	9	9.57

Form the table 5, it is clearly states that highly used format is PDF (58.51%) format and (22.34%) faculty members are using HTML format and word (31.91%) format respectively.

F. Hindrance in Accessing Digital Information Resources

Table 6. Hindrance of accessing digital information resources (n=94)

S. No.	Hindrance	No. of users	%
1	Too much	54	57.44
2	Information	40	42.55
3	Retrieved	51	54.25
4	Time consuming limited access	29	30.85
5	To a computer terminal lack of IT knowledge to effectively utilize the service using digital resources often detracts from doing work	24	25.53

The table 6 explains that 57.44% of faculties have stated that too much information retrieved is the main barrier to access digital resources. 54.25% noted that limited access to a computer terminal hindered to access digital resources.

Note: because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%

G. Impact of Digital Information Resources on Academic Developments

Table 7. Impact of digital information resources on academic development (n=94)

S. No.	Impact of digital information resources	No. of users	%
1	Access to current / up-to-date information	78	82.97
2	Easier access to information	57	60.63
3	Faster access to information	45	47.87
4	Access to a wide range	29	30.85

Table 7 shows that (82.97%) most of the respondents have stated that access to current or up-to-date information as a benefit of using digital information resources, followed by (60.63%) easier access to information and 47.87% of faculties having stated that faster access to information respectively and 30.85% respondents told that access to a wider range of information benefit of using digital information resources.

Note: because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%

VII. FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the study of data, the following findings and suggestions are made.

- Purpose of using digital information resources by majority of arts & science college faculties is for the preparations of class room teaching and research work.
- Majority of arts & science college faculty members retrieving digital information resources are for the preparations of class room teaching and research work.
- Most of the arts & science college faculties spent less than 5 hours in a week for accessing digital information resources.
- Large numbers of arts & science college faculties have learnt to access digital information resources by the guidance of other faculties or library staff members.
- ‘Google’ search engine is highly familiar of all search engines among arts & science college faculties
- Most favored format of information by arts & science college faculties is PDF
- The frequency of usage of digital information resources is increasing day by day gradually.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In the twenty first century Digital information resources have become the essential part of human life. It has quickly changed the way of searching and retrieving information. It is obvious from the study that how digital information resources are useful to preparation of class room teaching and research work. This study uses the librarians in planning and improving digital information resources in providing new services to the library patrons.

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