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AWARENESS AND USER PATTERN OF E-RESOURCES AMONG THE RESEARCH SCHOLARS IN ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The study analyzed the awareness and usage of e-resources among 110 research scholars of Alagappa University. A well-structured questionnaire was used for data collection and MS Excel software was used for analyzing the data. The study revealed that majority of the respondents are female 84(76.4%) and 75(62.8) % of respondents are M.Phil. research scholars and less respondents from Ph.D. scholars. Most of respondents 30(27.2%) used the library fortnightly, 22(20%) of respondents use library daily. Further the study found that 83(75.5%) of using Google Search engine; 17(15.5%) of the respondents use the yahoo. The study identify the 35(31.8%) of the respondents use the e-journals and 22(20 %) of the respondents use the e-thesis for their research & projects and 20(18.1%) of the respondents use online e-books to get information. The study found that 30(27.2%) of respondents using online electronic information resource to Update knowledge and 25(22.7%) of respondents use it study purpose; 44(40%) of respondents used to store and share information in online resource using Google drive, followed by 28(25.4%) respondents using store and share Hard disk & Hard drive and 21(19%) of respondents using Memory card.

Keywords: Electronic Resources, Awareness of E-Resources, User Pattern

1. INTRODUCTION

Information is more complex in communicating with users, information and information resources. The widespread situation confronting today's educational libraries increases the complexity, not only in the form of information but also the number of resources that are growing rapidly. In the traditional library, students are more limited to the spectrum from information sources - some basic reference sources, books, magazines, newspapers and scholar journal. The current digital environment expands the sources that students encounter in their research process and expands the formats in which they will encounter information requiring the student to navigate back and forth from the digital to the print environment. The term "user study" mainly focuses on "Research Scholar and Users" to measure their information needs, and use pattern.

According to Krill's (1983), Information seeking behavior refers to "any activity of an individual that is undertaken to identify a message that satisfies a perceived need".

Ingwersen (1995) as information being "the result of a transformation of the generator's cognitive structures (by intentionality, model of recipients' state of knowledge, and in the form of signs), and "on the other hand information is something – a structure- which, when perceived, may affect and transform the recipients state of knowledge".

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Grace and Jeyshankar (2014) examined the information seeking behavior of the nursing professionals of Apollo College of Nursing, Chennai. Questionnaire (N =175) was used to collect the data and the analysis covers mainly the type of sources used, usage pattern, services utilized by the users, information seeking behavior, level of satisfaction and constraints faced by the nursing professionals. Concludes that the library sources and services were utilized at the maximum level by the undergraduates and users who had lecturing and research as their nature of work.

Chandra and Mani(2014) attempt to investigate the awareness of e-resources, experience level in using resources, time spent on using e-resources, the purpose of using e-resources, use of various online sources and the most preferred place for accessing e-resources by the Associate Professors and Assistant Professors of Arts and Science Colleges in Chennai.

Prakash and Nirmala (2013) perceived as something between data, knowledge which is communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstance in order to reduce the user's uncertainty by meeting their needs. To create information awareness and use of information, it is important to know the needs of users. This study examines the information seeking behavior and use pattern of faculty members of V.L.B Group of institutions. This study covers many aspects of the library's use, the time spent by the authors, the conduct of searching,

and the methods adopted by the faculty for seeking information. Key Terms: Information Seeking Behavior, Information Explosion, Current Awareness, Information Channel.

Thanuskodi (2012) observed adequate knowledge about the information needs and seeking behavior of users which is vital for developing library collections, services, and facilities to meet their information needs effectively. The purpose of this study is to recognize the information channels utilized by Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University faculty members, information sources preferred by them, methods employed for getting the needed information and their library use pattern. Questionnaires were distributed from 20 Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University faculty members and 18 filled in questionnaires were returned, giving a total response rate of 90 percent. It was concluded that respondents used different sources for getting the needed information. The Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and CD-ROM sources were the most frequently used IT-based sources and facilities by the respondents.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❖ To identify the awareness on E-Resources by research scholars
- ❖ To check the level of awareness about E-Resources among research Scholars in Alagappa University.
- ❖ To find out the preferred place for information usage and time spent per week by the Research Scholars.
- ❖ To find out the use patterns of a different source of researchers at Alagappa University
- ❖ To know the level of satisfaction on current E-Resources.

4. METHODOLOGY

The survey research design was used for the study. The total population includes 110 registered users of the library made up of Research scholars from Alagappa University. A questionnaire has been prepared in such a way that the respondents could easily understand the items. A total number of 130 questionnaires were distributed among the respondents. The investigator could collect questionnaires from only 110 out of 130 respondents among whom the questionnaires were distributed. This constitutes 84.61% (110/130) of the total response.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

This study is based on the Survey (questionnaire) Method. A structured Questionnaire was designed to collect data from Research scholars at Alagappa University. Keeping in mind the basic objectives of the study.

Table 1 Distribution of Gender, Age, Nativity and Pursuing Respondents

S. No	General Information	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Gender	Male	26	23.6
		Female	84	76.4
2	Age	20 – 24	24	21.8
		25 – 29	61	55.5
		30 & above	25	22.7
3	Nativity	Urban	52	47.3
		Semi-urban	20	18.2
		Rural	38	34.5
4	Pursuing	M.Phil.	75	62.8
		Ph.D.	35	31.8
Total			110	100

Table 1 shows 84(76.4 %) of the respondents are female while the remaining 26(23.6%) of the respondents are male. Out of 110 respondents, 24(21.8 %) of the respondents belong to 20 – 24 year age group while 61(55.5 %) of the respondents belong to 25 – 29 year age group and 25(22.7 %) of the respondents belong to 30 & above year age group. 52(47.3%) of the respondents are from Urban and 38(34.5%) of the respondents are from Rural. 20(18.2%) of the respondents are semi-urban. 75(62.8%) of the respondents Pursuing M.Phil. Scholars and 35(31.8%) of the respondents are Ph.D. Scholars.

Table 2 Distributions of Respondents by Department

Department	Frequency	Percentage
Physics	10	9
English	14	12.7
Chemistry	12	10.9
Commerce	11	10
Mathematics	24	21.8
Education	12	10.9
Economics	3	2.7
Computer science	15	13.6
Library and Information Science	9	8.1
Total	110	100

Table 2 shows that the most of the respondents are scholar from the department of Mathematics 24(21.8%), followed by department of Computer science 15(13.6%), department of

English 14(12.7%), department of Chemistry and Education 12(10.9%), department of Commerce 11(10%), department of Physics 10(9%), Library and Information Science 9(8.1%) and department of Economics 3(2.7 %) respectively.

Table 3 Frequency of using the library

Frequency of using the library	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	13	11.8
Weekly	22	20
Fortnightly	30	27.2
Monthly	45	41
Total	110	100.0

The table 3 shows that Majority of respondents used information need Daily 13(11.8%), weekly 22(20%), and followed by Fortnightly 30(27.2%), 45(41%), of the respondents' information needs and use of pattern is Monthly.

Table 4 Search Engine

Search Engine	Frequency	Percentage
Yahoo	17	15.5
Wiki	8	7.3
Google	83	75.5
Other	2	1.8
Total	110	100.0

Table 4 shows the respondent's use of search engine. It is clear that majority of the respondents 83(75.5%), Using Google search engine, followed by Yahoo 17(15.5%), wiki 8(7.3%) and other search engine 2(1.8%).

Table 5 Respondent satisfaction of Online Electronic Information Resources

Respondent satisfaction E-Resource	Frequency	Percentage
E-Books	20	18.1
E-Newspaper	18	16.3
E-journal	35	31.8
E-Lecture notes, PPTs	15	13.6
E-Thesis & Projects	22	20
Total	110	100.0

Table 5 shows that E-journal is the most used visiting library materials by the respondents of 35(31.8%), and E-Thesis & Projects 22(20%), followed by E-Book 20(18.1%), E-Newspaper 18(16.3%), E-Lecture notes and ppt 15(13.6%) respectively.

Table 6 Searching Techniques

Search for a material in the library	Frequency	Percentage
Keyword search	18	16.4
Title search	37	33.6
Author search	8	7.3
Subject search	47	42.7
Total	110	100.0

The table 6 shows that most of the respondents 47(42.7%) search using 'subject', followed by 37(33.6%) search using the name of 'Title' and 18(16.4%) search techniques using 'Keyword' and 8(7.3%) of the respondents 'author'.

Table 7 Purpose of using Online Electronic Information Resources

Purpose of using E-Information Resources	Frequency	Percentage
To update Knowledge	30	27.2
For study purpose	25	22.7
For research work	15	13.6
Writing Paper	16	14.5
For preparing assignment	14	12.7
Project	10	9
Total	110	100.0

The table 7 shows that 30(27.2%), respondents used library to Update knowledge with the current record, followed by 25(22.7%) for study purpose, 16(14.5%) writing paper, 15(13.6%) of the respondents for research work, 14(12.7%) for preparing assignment, and 10(9%) project.

Table 8 Devices used to store and share information in online resources

Store and share information	Frequency	Percentage
Google Drive	44	40
Pen drive	28	25.4
Memory card (in mobile)	21	19

CD/DVD	12	10.9
Others	5	4.5
Total	110	100.0

The table 8 shows that 44(40%), respondents used Google drive to store and share information, followed by 28(25.4%), Pen drive, 21(19%) Memory card (in mobile), 12(10.9%) CD/DVD and 5 (4.5%) other devices.

6. CONCLUSION

Majority of the respondents are aware of the electronic information resources. Most of respondents are first graduate. 110 out of 130 respondents use computer facilities of research scholar. This study shows the use e-resource which is very common among the research scholars of Alagappa University Karaikudi. This study focuses that the majority of M.Phil. Scholars depend on e-resources to get the desired and relevant information for their research. The present study concluded that the research scholars in the Alagappa University need proper training in the use of electronic resource and information search tools. Users suggested that the college research scholar must need high speed Wi-Fi technology in the college campus. This study suggests some measure to achieve effective and efficient utilization of e-resources used for research scholar.

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