Awareness and Usage of Online Medical Resources Among the Students of Selected Medical Colleges in Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

The study is restricted only to the students of selected medical colleges in Tamil Nadu. The study is limited to the respondents who are regular and full time students during the survey. The study is confined to selected medical college libraries only. The survey method which adopted for collecting the data in this study has its own limitations. The researcher has distributed 300 questionnaires of three selected medical colleges. Out of these, 289 questionnaires were collected and nine questionnaires were rejected. So, the researcher convenient 280 respondent questionnaires have been selected for analysis purpose the response rate is 93.33 percent received among the students from selected medical colleges surveyed.

Keywords: Electronic Resources, Awareness and Usage of Online Medical Resources.

INTRODUCTION

Electronic resources are considered as the repositories of knowledge, that are explored by modern internet devices, which is refined and revamped and frequently processed in the most concrete and portable form in cyber space and can be accessed simultaneously by a large number of audiences from infinite points.

ADVANTAGES OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The ease of use, readability, reliability and affordability are the reasons why the purchase of digital services is generally accepted in libraries. Electronic resources have a variety of advantages for users, authors, publishers, and archivists, as well as for libraries. The benefits are:

- ✓ Multi-Access: A networked Product can provide a multiplicity of access points at several points throughout the clock and for several simultaneous users.
- ✓ Speed: The electronic resource can be navigated or searched, extracted, and integrated into other materials or cross-searched or referenced by different publications much quicker.
- ✓ Low production costs compared with printed materials.
- ✓ Publication and distribution costs are lower than those of the printed versions.

✓ It saves massive time by offering quick and fast access without wasting time to process, print, bind, and deliver.

✓ Eliminates the cost of printing, binding, and postal services.

✓ Allow interactive facilities.

✓ Facilitate simple replication and dissemination to new media.

✓ Integration of various media (image, sound, video, and so on).

✓ Saves storage space of the library.

✓ Possible to preserve fragile and expensive original materials.

✓ Enable anywhere remote access at any time.

✓ Enable large numbers of users to access the resources simultaneously.

✓ Facilitate access to people with physical disabilities.

✓ Be environmentally friendly.

✓ The data are easy to manipulate and can be stored in electronic media at regular intervals.

✓ Digital tools that are insensitive to environmental risks and, if properly treated, are very long-lasting that cannot be accomplished with paper-based print media.

✓ To provide all clients, faculty, researchers, and P.G. students with current knowledge services.

✓ A large number of search engines are available to locate and retrieve relevant articles.

✓ Easily accessible via multiple accesses and local networks.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Bhat (2019) the present study 'Impact of advent of electronic information resources on performance of library users' evaluates the effect of electronic information resources on academic activities and in carrier-related core aspects of users. In the researchers ' scenario, seven agricultural universities in northern India were individually investigated by a formal questionnaire to collect data on the questions under examination. It is concluded that the majority of respondents agree that the participation of users in research has risen due to the introduction of e-resources (62.90%), and e-recourses have played an important role in promptly finalizing and delivering their relevant study assignments (74.30%). It is also clear that a large majority of respondents accept that "academic examinations" (50.80 per cent),' competitive examinations' (52.80 per cent) and' interviews'(46.18 per cent) have had a positive influence by the e-resources.

Lwoga Edda Tandi and Sife Alfred Said (2018) in this study 'Impacts of quality antecedents on faculty members' acceptance of electronic resources' aims to determine whether quality antecedents and characteristics will impact on the continuous use of electronic resources (e-resources) by faculty members in selected Tanzanian government universities. A total of 204 teachers from three public universities across Tanzania participated in this research. The thesis used structural equation simulation, ANOVA and t-tests to conduct analysis. Better trained and middle-aged staff members who have a good familiarity with e-resources prefer to continue to use e-resources. Quality of information has a positive relation with continued usage of e-resources and quality of service has indirect impacts on continuous use of information through content and system consistency.

DEFINITION

Berzins & Hudson (2011) define e-resources in the broadest sense 'This includes Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs), platforms (such as XCRI), research software (such as NVivo, Endnote or

SPSS), and other e-resources (such as the use of Web 2.0 technologies, social networking technologies or mobile phone technologies) as they relate to systems used to aid learning, teaching, administration or management.'

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To study how Assess the E- Services offered by the Surveyed Library

- ✓ To study Aware of using Internet based Resources and Services by the Medical Student Respondents

- ✓ To study Awareness about Online Medical Databases by the Respondents

- ✓ To study Awareness of E-Resources and Services by the Medical Student Respondents

- ✓ To study Awareness of the other Online Medical Databases by the Surveyed Medical Student Respondents

- ✓ To identify the Confidence level in using Internet based Resource and Services

- ✓ Distribution of Questionnaire and the Response Rate of Surveyed selected Medical Colleges in Tamil Nadu

- ✓ To identify the Personal Information of the Student Respondents

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem chosen for the research is 'Awareness and Usage of Online Medical Resources among the Students of selected Medical Colleges in Tamil Nadu'. The study aims to identify the selected medical library practices 'as good practices in enhancing the quality of medical college libraries internet and resources usage. The variables influence in adopting internet, the outcomes and limitations for quality resource initiatives and the variance level in adopting and implementing internet resources in the selected Medical Colleges in Tamil Nadu.

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaire and the Response Rate of Surveyed selected Medical Colleges in Tamil Nadu

S.No	Colleges	Questionnaire Administered	Questionnaire Received	Questionnaire Rejected	Questionnaire Analyzed	Response Rate
1.	Velammal Medical College	100	99	01	98	98.00%
2.	Theni Government Medical College	100	96	04	92	92.00%
3.	Sivagangai Government Medical College	100	94	04	90	90.00%
	Total	*300*	*289*	*09*	*280*	*93.33%*

The survey method which adopted for collecting the data in this study has its own limitations. The researcher has distributed 300 questionnaires of three selected medical Colleges. Out of these, 289 questionnaires were collected and nine questionnaires were rejected. So, the researcher convenient 280 respondent questionnaires have been selected for analysis purpose the response rate is 93.33 percent received among the students from selected medical colleges surveyed.

Table - 2: Personal Information of the Student Respondents

S.No	General Information		Respondents	%
1.	Gender wise	Male	139	49.64%
		Female	141	50.36%
		Total	*280*	*100.00%*
2.	Age wise	18 to 20 Years	95	33.93%
		21 to 30 Years	129	46.07%
		Above 30 Years	56	20.00%
		Total	*280*	*100.00%*

Gender Wise

It is found from the above table, out of the total 280 medical student respondents, there were 141 (50.36%) female medical student respondents and 139 (49.64%) medical student respondents were the male respondents. The table indicated that more than fifty percent of the female medical student respondents contributed to the survey of the study than their counterparts.

Age Wise

It is evident from the above table, out of 280 medical student respondents, there were 129 (46.07%) medical student respondents belongs to the age group of 21 to 30 years. Followed by 95 (33.93%) medical student respondents were in the age group of 18 to 20 years and 56 (20.00%) medical student respondents were in the age group of above 30 years. It is inferred that majority of the medical student respondents were young medical professionals and it comes under the age of 21 to 30 Years.

Table - 3: Awareness of E-Resources and Services by the Medical Student Respondents

S.No	E-Resources and Services	Aware	%	Not Aware	%
1.	E-Books/ E- Journals	280	100.00%	0	0.00%
2.	Online Databases	280	100.00%	0	0.00%
3.	Social Media Networks	280	100.00%	0	0.00%
4.	Open Access E-Resources	278	99.29%	2	0.71%
5.	E-Newspaper/E-Magazines	277	98.93%	3	1.07%
6.	Institutional Repositories	265	94.64%	15	5.36%
7.	Blogs	235	83.93%	45	16.07%
8.	E-mail discussion groups	234	83.57%	46	16.43%
9.	CD/DVD	230	82.14%	50	17.86%
10.	E-Thesis and Dissertation	229	81.79%	51	18.21%

The above table revealed that the entire medical student respondents (100%) were aware of E-Books and E-Journals, Online Databases and Social Media Networks. 99.29 % of them had an awareness of Open Access E-Resources, followed by E-Newspaper/E-Magazines (98.93%) and Institutional Repositories (94.64%). But they were least aware of the e-resources forms like CD/DVD (82.14%) and E-Thesis and Dissertations (81.79%).

Table - 4: Awareness about Online Medical Databases by the Respondents

S.No	*Online Medical Databases*	*Aware*	*%*	*Not Aware*	*%*
1.	ClinicalKey	235	83.93	45	16.07%
2.	Google Scholar	233	83.21	47	16.79%
3.	ERMED Consortium	231	82.50	49	17.50%
4.	Ovid	224	80.00	56	20.00%
5.	Proquest	210	75.00	70	25.00%
6.	PubMed	198	70.71	82	29.29%
7.	BIOSIS citation Index by (Web of Science)	165	58.93	115	41.07%
8.	MedEdPortal	162	57.86	118	42.14%
9.	Medline Plus Health Information	160	57.14	120	42.86%
10.	MicroMedex	159	56.79	121	43.21%

The above table highlight that most of the medical student respondents under study have the awareness that their institution library is having subscribing the ClinicalKey (83.93%) database of Elsevier Publications, followed by Google Scholar (83.21%), Ermed Consortium of National Medical Library (82.50%, Ovid by Wolters Kluwer (80.00%), Proquest (75.00%). It is inferred that the students of selected medical colleges in Tamil Nadu have awareness regarding the association of their institution with the ClinicalKey Consortium.

Table – 5: Awareness of the other Online Medical Databases by the Surveyed Medical Student Respondents

S.No	*Other Online Medical Databases*	*Aware*	*%*
1.	MedInd	220	78.57%
2.	Medline Plus	211	75.36%
3.	SPIRS MEDLINE	186	66.43%
4.	EMBASE	174	62.14%
5.	GP Med	135	48.21%
6.	CINHAL	131	46.79%
7.	SERFILE	126	45.00%
8.	TRIP Database	112	40.00%
9.	Psyco Information	106	37.86%
10.	Cochrane Collaboration	98	35.00%

The above table analyzed that awareness of the other Online Medical Databases by the surveyed medical student respondents, the majority of 220 (78.57%) respondents to aware on MedInd Online medical databases, followed by 211 (75.36%) respondents to aware on Medline Plus Online medical databases, 186 (66.43%) respondents to aware on SPIRS MEDLINE Online medical databases and 174 (62.14%) respondents to aware on EMBASE Online medical databases.

Table - 6: Aware of using Internet based Resources and Services by the Medical Student Respondents

S.No	Aware of using	Respondents	%
1.	Library website	262	93.57%
2.	Colleagues or Class fellows	253	90.36%
3.	College Staff	231	82.50%
4.	Library staff	228	81.43%
5.	Information brochures	210	75.00%
6.	Membership	185	66.07%

(Note: Respondents may have selected more than one option)

Sources that are made aware the on required information aware by the respondents among the medical students in the selected surveyed medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, revealed that majority of the respondents by using library website (93.57%), followed by discussing with colleagues or class fellows (90.36%), more than eighty two (~82.50) percent of the respondents aware of using internet based resources and services through college staff members, 81.43% of the respondents aware of using internet based resources and services through college Library staff members and 75% of the respondents aware of using internet based resources and services through reading information brochures.

Table – 7: Assess the E- Services offered by the Surveyed Library

S.No	E-Services	Highly Useful	Useful	Uncertain	Not Useful	Not at all Useful
1.	Online Public Access Catalogue	87 (31.07%)	84 (30.00%)	69 (24.64%)	21 (7.50%)	19 (6.79%)
2.	Electronic Current Awareness Service	85 (30.36%)	83 (29.64%)	68 (24.29%)	18 (6.43%)	26 (9.29%)
3.	E-Mail alerting Service	84 (30.00%)	82 (29.29%)	72 (25.71%)	17 (6.07%)	25 (8.93%)
4.	Electronic Selective Dissemination of Information	79 (28.21%)	74 (26.43%)	73 (26.07%)	15 (5.36%)	39 (13.93%)
5.	Mobile Enabled Library Services	78 (27.86%)	70 (25.00%)	75 (26.79%)	14 (5.00%)	43 (15.36%)
6.	Electronic Thesis and Dissertations Services	69 (24.64%)	72 (25.71%)	76 (27.14%)	13 (4.64%)	50 (17.86%)

7.	E-Table of Content and Content page Journal service	66 (23.57%)	74 (26.43%)	79 (28.21%)	12 (4.29%)	49 (17.50%)
8.	E-Print Repository Services	58 (20.71%)	76 (27.14%)	81 (28.93%)	11 (3.93%)	54 (19.29%)
9.	Online Reference Service	55 (19.64%)	79 (28.21%)	86 (30.71%)	11 (3.93%)	49 (17.50%)
10.	Social Media Platform Services	54 (19.29%)	82 (29.29%)	87 (31.07%)	10 (3.57%)	47 (16.79%)

Perception on the medical college electronic libraries service by the respondents revealed that the highly useful electronic services are Online Public Access Catalogue (31.07%), Electronic Current Awareness Service (30.36%), e-mail alerting service (30.00%), Electronic Selective Dissemination of Information (28.21%) and Mobile Enabled Library Services (27.86%). Hence it is inferred that the medical college libraries need to evolve students to provide more information through mobile based and web enabled service to their student users.

Table – 8: Confidence level in using Internet based Resource and Services

S.No	Confidence Level	Total	%
1.	Very Good	85	30.36%
2.	Good	73	26.07%
3.	Somewhat Good	47	16.79%
4.	Poor	43	15.35%
5.	Very Poor	32	11.43%
	Total	280	100.00%

In on Confidence level in using internet based resources by the student respondents, A Fair number of respondetns felt very good (30.36%) and good (26.07%) in terms of confidence level in using internet facilities from the selected medical college libraries. It is inferred from the analysis that only negligible respondent's confidence level is poor and very poor. Hence based on the survey the library and information environment in the selected medical colleges is perceived as very good.

CONCLUSION

The present study evident that the medical student of the selected surveyed medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, ensures a range of information needs on awareness and usage of internet and usefulness of e-resources. Medical educations being one of the prominent and foremost sectors that integrate technology particularly the information technology, the academic community prefers the access to the scholarly information through the electronic and digital mode. In this context it is very much relevant to periodically assess the information needs and use of on information resource and services by the academics in order to enhance the library and information environment in the medical colleges by provision of updated and specific information services. The study also concluded that the perception of medical users on library staff as their approachable, helping, understanding the user

needs and satisfy to the extent of acceptable level. The overall opinion on the library services and e-resources access facilities is very good, but more than one third of the respondents felt that libraries need to further improvement in the surveyed environment.

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