

Use Of Digital Library Recourses By The Faculty Members Of Engineering College Affiliated To Savitribai Phule Pune University (M.S.) – A Study.

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Abstract

The present age is called as electronic age. In this age, there is a vast change in almost all walks of life. Because of the electronics inventions, the education field is also greatly affected. In the final decade of the last century, there is a great increment in the use of electronic Medias and mediums in the educational field. Digital resources are defined as digital, electronic, streaming video, audio recordings, CDs, DVDs, VHS recordings, and subscription databases. Digital Resources are defined as material (data/or programs) encoded or manipulated by computerized device.(AACR-2000) Electronic resources refer to those materials or services that require a computer for access, manipulation, or reproduction including, but not limited to, numerical, graphical and textual files, electronic journals, bibliographic or full-text databases and Internet resources. A renowned author Terry Kunny, in his book “An introduction to digital technologies and issues” (1995) explains the concept of digitalization as- “The process of translating a piece of information such as book, sound recording, picture or video into bits which are the fundamentals units of information in a computer systems.” In today digital resources in a library play a significant role in academic libraries as they are mostly tuned for the promotion of academic excellence and research. In view of all this, digital resources like online databases, e-journals, OPACs and Internet etc. are slowly replacing the importance and usage of print media. Now a day library users are no longer obliged to visit the library at regular open hours to meet all their information needs. They may search the online catalogue, use a subject guide or database to access a citation from the Internet or access a full text article from web based journals, they may browse an electronic journals, fill out an inter library lending form, e-mail a reference question via the ask a librarian service or borrow an e-book all by remote access.

Introduction

The dawn of 21st century witnessed the digital revolution and gained an extraordinary significance as an indispensable tool in pursuit of knowledge and information. The Internet has remarkably come up as the most powerful medium of storage and retrieval of information needed for various purposes.

In the changing scenario, the academic institutions have been adopting many innovative technologies for fulfilling their commitments and needs. The concept of 'digital library' or an 'electronic library' has got sudden importance not only in the academic scenario but also in the private sectors and government organizations.

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"The process of translating a piece of information such as book, sound recording, picture or video into bits which are the fundamentals units of information in a computer systems."

In today's rapid changing world, the users limit their search only to such resources or databases which are available in full text. Hence these digital resources have become most common medium of scholarly communication. More and more scholarly publications are being made available on-line.

Information needs of learners and knowledge seekers are met through a plethora of sources. The digital resources available in a library play a prominent role in facilitating access to required information to the users in an easy and expeditious manner. Further, one need not go to the library to make use of print formats as the digital resource can be made use of by any user through online access via networks or authentication methods at any time by comfortably sitting at home or office. However, it is imperative that one should be familiar with the use and exploitation of digital resources for their quicker and effective usage. Further, digital resources can also be used for efficient retrieval. Thus, digital resources in a library play a significant role in academic libraries as they are mostly tuned for the promotion of academic

excellence and research. In view of all this, digital resources like CD-ROM database, online databases, online journals, OPACs and Internet etc are slowly replacing the importance and usage of print media.

The present age is called as Digital Age. In this age, there is a vast change in almost all walks of life. Because of the electronics inventions, the education field is also greatly affected. In the final decade of the last century, there is a great increment in the use of electronic Medias and mediums in the educational field.

The digitization of the library is also a part of such increments. Though in some institutions, there is partial digitization of the libraries; a remarkable use of computers is seen in teaching and learning process as well as in research.

Since the mid-1990s witnessed tremendous shifts in collections, services and sources. Computers and computer application have been widely introduced and an integrated library system has been installed. Web gateway provides remote access to a tremendous wealth of digital resources -books collections in engineering subjects and E-journals covering a variety of subjects and major bibliographic databases. Besides this there are collections of Internet resources.

The electronic Revolution has been described as being one of the sole most noteworthy incidents of today. The world is embossed with new technologies, which has geared up libraries and information centers to provide better and faster ways to generate, print, and transport information. Information is a strategic resource for every activity and earlier information generated from different activities was recorded in different print forms. But now, current trends and developments suggest that information is growing exponentially both in conventional and unconventional forms. Digital libraries, Institutional libraries, Electronic resources are the present day buzz words, which on one hand show impact of technologies on the present day libraries and on the other side, challenges being faced by information professionals to harness technology to manage digital resources in this era.

Thus library users are no longer obliged to visit the library at regular open hours to meet all their information needs. They may search the online catalogue, use a subject guide or database to access a citation from the Internet or access a full text article from web based journals, they may browse an electronic journals, fill out an inter library lending form, e-mail a reference question via the ask a librarian service or borrow an e-book all by remote access.

Review of related literature

As per the research methodology the researcher is studied the previous works done in the subject at various places so that no part related to the work will be repeated or reproduced. At the outset of the work, the researcher has done some literature review.

Griffiths and Brophy (2005) conducted a survey on students searching behavior on the web. Concluded with students prefer to locate information or resources via a search engine and found that Google is the search engine of choice. Also reports that search engines now influences their perception and expectations of other electronic resources.

Asemi and Riyahiniya (2006) concluded a survey on awareness and use of Digital resources in the libraries of Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Iran. Results of the study are 70% students are aware of Digital resources available in the university database, 87.2% of students feel that available Digital resources meets their information needs. Authors conclude that users are facing some problems like low speed connectivity and shortage of inadequate hardware facilities.

Ramesh Babu and Gopalkrishnan (1998) found that the majority of the users were engineers and belonged to the age groups of 21- 40 years. The most used internet services were E-mail and WWW. The female group of the users use it more compared to male group and majority of the respondents use it for sending E-mail(100%) retrieving required information (93%), getting news and publish information.

Biradhar and Sampath Kumar (2005) investigate the use of internet, its purpose, amount of time spent to use the internet, place of use, internet expertise and the perceived obstacles in the use of internet by physicists in the universities of Karnataka State. They recommended some strategies to use the internet to greater extent.

Doraswamy, M (2007) in his study of “Knowledge and use of Digital resources by engineering faculty members affiliated to Acharya Nagarjuna University A.P.” has made an attempt to determine the present status of knowledge and use of Digital resources. He observed that the use of Digital resources is still inadequate among the faculty members of the universities in the developing countries.

Objectives of study

1. To know the purpose and impact of using the Digital resources.

2. To find out the problems faced by the engineering college faculty members while using the Digital resources.
3. To know the reliability of information in Digital resources.
4. To know the satisfaction of faculty members by using the Digital resources.
5. To know the Digital resources replace traditional resources.

Hypothesis of the study

It is hypothesized by the researcher that most of the engineering colleges in Pune city having introduced Digital resources. It is assumed that many faculty members use internet, e-mail, e-journal, e-book etc. regularly for various purpose they generally make use of these resources for teaching and research. However it is also assumed that the engineering colleges are equipped with the computers internet facilities with required technical advancement

Methodology of study

A descriptive research methodology was used for this study. A survey was administered to a selected sample from a specific population in the region of Pune city. The term 'survey' is commonly applied to a research methodology designed to collect data from a specific population, or a sample from that population, and typically utilizes a questionnaire or an interview as the survey instrument.

Sample

College wise distribution of respondents of the above 12 colleges affiliated to SavitribaiPhule Pune University. Total 69.72 % response received by respective Colleges. Among that Sahyadri Valley College of Engineering & Technology, Rajuri, Junnar received highest 95 % responses and P. G. Moze College of Engineering Wagholi Pune Receive lowest 61.64 % responses. The percentage wise colleges contribution for this analysis. Maximum 95% contribution by Sahyadri Valley College of Engineering & Technology, Rajuri, Pune

Data Collection Tools And Techniques

Keeping in view of objectives and scope of the study, relevant points needed for the study covered, the questionnaire included different type of questions, such as dichotomous questions

(yes/no), multiple choice questions, and opinion question. Every question has been so framed that it matches easy to understand and take little time of the respondents in providing the needed information. The questionnaire designed for the faculty members to elicit their experience.

Questionnaire

In the people resources mentioned above the researcher has decided to use questionnaire as well as interviews as a tool of research for data collection. Reason for the selection of this tool is it is difficult to visit and observe each library and collect-required data due to large in number. As the information required included in figures, it was not considered proper to collect the information through interview method.

Conclusion

The researcher has taken an enormous effort for the accomplishment of the project finally ended up with a satisfaction results. During the research period he found a considerable number of new outcomes which will be useful for policy makers as well as will inspire the young research scholars. The most remarkable outcome of the research is that there is a great number of increments in the use of digital resources in all the concerned engineering colleges, though most of the colleges are from remote area. Few years back the use of computer, internet and e-mail etc. was rarely seen. On contrary, there is a great change in the scenario.

The researcher has also found that the basic concept of library and its use has got a new aspect. Now as the library is nothing but the centre for information, the same has not been closed in the traditional so called "library room or library building." The journey of library has now reached to the computer lab as well as to the cabin of the individuals.

The researcher could also see the active use of the resources by most of the faculty members of the engineering colleges. Many lecturers would find it difficult to search books in the library or find articles or magazines note there. As the digital resources generated knowledge, the need of such visit to library has been suddenly lessen down.

The conclusion of this research is that to seek knowledge is not the only purpose of the faculty members of the engineering college. They use the digital resources for different purposes like communication, research, teaching, personality development etc.

It has also been found that most of the faculty members follow the easiest and user friendly digital resources in their day to day life for e.g. CD ROM database, Internet and search engines.

However at the engineering college level it has been found that there is a limited access to the use of digital resources. Many informative sites are not made available to the faculty members by near about all the colleges.

The integration of information and communication technologies into the working practices of organizations and individuals has led to the situation in which there is more of everything - more information resources, more forms of it, more ways to publish and distribute them and more ways to access them. While there can be no dispute about the importance of digitization and digital resources both as a means of publishing, enhancing and widening access to resources and for enriching the content of resources, it is important to realize that the collection of digital resources should be properly organized for access and effective use by end users. The digital materials may be of multimedia types or any other i.e. only digital audio, video, full text information, photographs, drawing, digitized sound, e-book, electronic text, map, representation etc. The collection may also include structured/unstructured text, , images graphic audios, video etc

Major findings of study

1. Among all digital resources e-journals and e-books are more in use.
2. Majority of the faculty members (88.42%) are using google group for share e-content.
3. Digital resources are playing a vital role in influencing the academic efficiency of
4. the faculty members under the study.
5. Most of Faculty Members are use 83.43% use E-mail
6. Most of the Faculty members are 60.04 use ASCE database .

Therefore all the points have come out of the action research.

- ◆ Near about 100 % faculty members use computer, among that 83% faculty daily spend more than one hour on computers.

- ◆ Most of the faculty members (93.23%) are familiar with digital resources.
- ◆ Most of the faculty members (56.33%) opined that they were acquiring skills to use digital resources through self study method.
- ◆ Majority of the faculty members (60.48%) access digital resources at college library.
- ◆ Most of the faculty members (47.61%) are using digital resources for collecting subject information.
- ◆ Majority of the faculty members (89.51%) opined that digital resources are convenient than printed resources.
- ◆ Majority of the faculty members (74.01%) are mainly using internet and search engines and (83.40%) are using e-mail daily compared to other digital resources.
- ◆ Most of the faculty members using ASTM Digital Library compared to other ASME, ASCE, ACE databases etc.
- ◆ Majority of the faculty members (71.17%) opined that digital resources will replace traditional resources.
- ◆ Majority (44.10%) and (24.01%) of the faculty members have expressed “limited access to Internet” and “lack of training” are the main problems in securing access to digital resources.
- ◆ Most of the faculty members (43.66%) expressed that digital resources are fully reliable.
- ◆ Majority of the faculty members (43.01%) are partially satisfied by using the digital resources.

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