

Use of E-Resources in the BITS, Pilani – Hyderabad Campus: A Study

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ABSTRACT

This study attempts to examine the exposure and measure the extent use of e-resources by the faculty members and research scholars of BITS, Pilani - Hyderabad Campus with questionnaire based survey. Various statistical methods have been used for data analysis. The study confirmed that there is a great amount of awareness among both faculty and research scholars on the e-resources and various types of e-Resources, e-Database, and e-Journals. This study concludes with few suggestions, such as subscription to more e-resources, practical training on selected e-Resources etc.

Keywords: E-resources; User study; BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus; User satisfaction

1. INTRODUCTION

University libraries have undergone major changes in terms of information collection, dissemination, conveyance, and use of information and communication technology development in recent years. In universities, electronic resources, as an integral part of an institute's libraries and academic resources, are assisting learning, teaching and research activities.

As stated in many literatures, e-Resource is the most frequently used, and preferred type of information for teachers and students from different departments. e-resource covers: Online full-text and retrieval database, e-Journal, e-Newsletter, e-Reference resource, and internet resource etc.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study was undertaken to analyze the effectiveness of e-resources provided by BITS, Pilani – Hyderabad Campus, with faculty & research scholars with the following objectives:

- To determine the awareness of e-resources among the users of BITS, Pilani – Hyderabad Campus Library;
- To identify and understand the user needs on e-Resources;
- To find out the problems faced by the users while accessing;
- To find out frequency and duration of the e-Resources consulted by users and
- To determine the level of satisfaction of the user on e-Resources.

3. SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is confined to faculty members and research scholars of BITS, Pilani – Hyderabad Campus, regarding the use of online resources within the campus.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

A study conducted by Mounissamy and Swaroop Rani⁽²⁾ clearly represent that "the usage and usability of electronic journals by research scholars and faculty members of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli. The study reveals that 67 percent of researchers and 33 percent of faculty members regularly access and use the electronic journals for varied purposes". Mounissamy and Kaliaammal⁽³⁾ confined to identify the promotional ways adopted by seven IITs and 18 NITs for the effective use of e-resources including institute's and library's home pages and their functionalities for accessing the electronic resources. Sharma⁽⁴⁾ reports that 80.77% of teachers and 86.67% of research scholars are able to access the e-resources very easily. It was further reported in the survey that 51.92% of teachers have taken training as regards the use of electronic resources. Adebayo Muritala Adegboro⁽¹⁾ study revealed that academics have indicated satisfaction with their use of electronic resources and have committed their interest to the continuous use of e-resources because their use leads to better research and enhances scholarly communication.

5. METHODOLOGY ADOPTED FOR THE STUDY

To collect the data, a semi structured questionnaire was designed with questions on user habits & awareness, satisfaction with e-resources performance of the library to satisfy the needs of

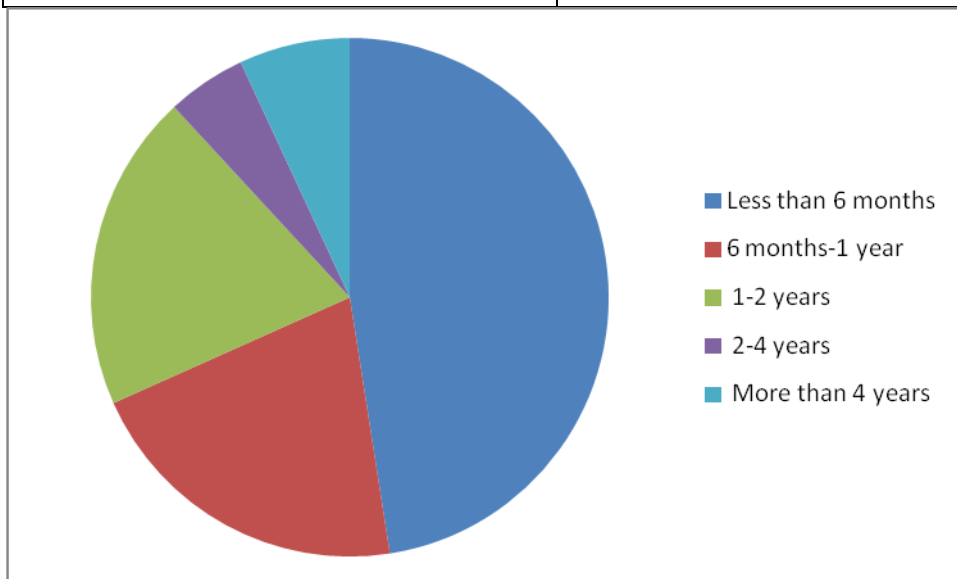
faculty & research scholars. Besides questionnaire method, observation and interview methods were also adopted.

The survey was conducted among the faculty& research of BITS, Pilani – Hyderabad Campus and received 107 responses and the age group of the respondents 21-35. 62% of the responses were received from the faculty and 38% of responses were received from research scholars by method of sample distribution.

6. DATA ANALYSIS& INTERPRETATION

1. Experience of using the e-Resource section: How long have you been using the e-Resources section?

Less than 6 months	48
6 months-1 year	21
1-2 years	20
2-4 years	5
More than 4 years	13



Interpretation:

- 45% of the respondents are using e-resources for less than 6 months.
- 19% of the respondents are using e-resources for the last one year.
- 18% of the respondents are using e-resources for the last two years.

- 18% of the respondents are using e-resources more than 2 years.

2. Frequency of using e-Resources section: How often do you use e-Resource section?

Daily	26
2-3 times a week	35
2-3 times a month	15
Once in a month	24

Interpretation:

- 20% of the respondents are using e-resources daily
- 36% of the respondents are using e-resources 2-3 times in a week.
- 26% of the respondents are using e-resources once in a month.
- Very few respondents are using e-resources 2-3 times in a month.

3. Time spent in the e-Resource section:

Less than 1 hr. a week	51
2-3 hrs. a week	33
5-6 hrs. a week	7
7-9 hrs. a week	6
over 20 hrs. a week	10

Interpretation:

- 47% of the respondents are using e-resources less than 1 hour in a week
- 31% of the respondents are using e-resources from 2-3 hours in a week.
- 22% respondents are using e-resources more than 3 hours.

4. Most frequently used location of e-Resource: From which place do you most frequently use for e-Resource?

At central library	35
Other places in the campus	44

At home (staff quarters)	21
At other place	7

Interpretation:

- Most of the respondent user prefers to use the e-resources in the Campus & Library and few preferring to use them from home & other places.

5. Methods of learning to use of e-Resources: How did you learn to handle the e-Resources?

Training from library	12
Guidance from colleagues and friends	44
Self-instruction	47
External courses	2
Any other	2

Interpretation:

- Most of the respondents are using the e-resources by themselves or trained by colleagues & friends. Very few of them trained by the library.

6. Purpose of using e-Resources: The purpose(s) you mainly use the e-Resources for?

Research	74
Education	30
Any other	3

Interpretation:

- Most of them are using the e-resources for their research and education purpose.

7. Problems Encountered while using the e-Resources:

Slow access speed	43
Difficulty in finding relevant information	40
Overload of information on the Internet	6
It takes too long to view/download pages	19
Privacy problem	6
Any other please specify	3

Interpretation:

- 27% of respondent facing problem to get the relevant information using the e-resources.
- 40% of respondent faces slow internet speed.
- A very few respondents encountered problems like downloading/view pages, overload of information etc.

8. Ways to Browse Information from the e-Resource Section: How do you browse the required information from the e-Resources section?

Type the Web address directly	29
Use search engines	55
Use subscribed e-Resources	23

Interpretation:

- 51% of the respondents connecting to e-resources through various search engines.
- 27% of respondents browsing the information by typing the web address directly.

9. Collection of the search matter: Do you collect the search results from e-Resources?

Yes / No. If yes, please mention through:

Pen Drive	43
CD	5
e-mail	54
Any other please specify_____	5

Interpretation:

- 51% of the respondents collecting the searched information/research papers through e-mail.
- Pen Drive is the next preference for the respondents (40%)

10. Satisfaction with e-Resource Facilities: Up to what extent, are you satisfied with the e-Resource facilities provided by the central library?

Fully	22
Partially	51
Less satisfied	17
No comments	15

Interpretation:

- 47% of the respondents are partially satisfied with the e-resources facilities provided by the central library.

11. Please specify your satisfaction level: How much are you satisfied with the:

Format	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Highly Dissatisfied
Biblio	6	45	24	5	1
Abstract	11	53	12	4	0
Full Text	6	27	32	14	7
Graphic	3	4	34	7	5

Interpretation:

- Most of the respondents were satisfied with the different formats of e-resources.

12. Satisfaction with e-Resource Section: Are you satisfied with e-Resources section? Yes / No.

	Yes	No
(i) Less opening Time	38	21
(ii) Charges to access e-Resources	28	27
(iii) Lack of proper guidance	28	26
(iv) Lack of relevant e-Resources	28	18
(v) Lack of Printing facilities	31	27
(vi) In-sufficient e-Resources	50	14
(vii) Technical problems	22	29
(viii) Lack of probability in contrast with original print materials:	16	31
(ix) Failure of Hardware and Software affect the functioning of e-Resources section:	21	29

Interpretation:

- Most of the respondents feel that the e-resources are in-sufficient, wants the e-resources on their desk-tops & printing facilities.

13. Comparison of Conventional Documents and e-Resources: In your opinion, using e-Resources as compared to use of conventional document is:

	A	B
(i) Time saving or Time consuming	75	7
(ii) More informative or Less informative	69	6
(iii) More expensive or Less expensive	14	50
(iv) Easy to use or Complicated	72	9
(v) More preferred or Less preferred	64	6
(vi) More flexible or Less flexible	64	12

(vii) easy to handle or Complicated	66	9
(viii) More effective or less effective	66	11

Interpretation:

- Most of the respondents feel that the e-resources are time saving, easy to use & handle, more informative, preferred, flexible & effective.

14. Influences on Academic Efficiency? How the use of e-Resources has influenced the academic efficiency?

Use of conventional documents has increased	10
Dependency on the e-Resources has increased	48
Expedited the research process	42
Improved professional competence	26

Interpretation:

- Most of the respondents feel that the increase of dependency on the e-resources & expedited the research influence the academic efficiency.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study offer significant information on the level of awareness and use of electronic resources in the Library. Most of the users indicated that they are using e-resources 2-3 times in a week. But more than half of the respondents access the e-resources less than an hour. When compare with conventional documents, most of the respondents feel that the e-resources are time saving, easy to use & handle, more informative, preferred, flexible & effective. Hence we believe that the usage of e-resource will dominate and influence the learning, teaching research activities in future. Interestingly most of the user shows their satisfaction with the availability e-resource facilities in the campus. The library spends 40% on the printed materials and 60% on electronic resources. As the demand for the e resources are increasing day by day the % of amount spent will also go up in coming years. We observed that use of e-Resources have influenced their academic efficiency. There is an

increase of 20% in the projects received by faculty in the current year and no. of research papers published in the international journals by the faculty members. We also found a significant dependency on the e-Resources has increased as well in their academic and research work.

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