Chapter 20
Determining the Electronic Information Access Visibility Among the Faculty Members in the Engineering and Technology Institutions

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ABSTRACT

The study analyses faculty members from 39 engineering institutions where electronic information was accessed for their teaching and research in Coimbatore District. The study observed results that 176 (33.8%) of them are Masters in Engineering, 89 (17.1%) of them have done M.Sc. Engineering, 46 (8.8%) of them have completed M. Tech, and 87 (16.8%) of the respondents are Ph.D. holders. The majority of the respondents, 221 (42.5%), are assistant professors/lecturers/senior lecturers. Two hundred fifty-one (48.3%) respondents rated that information sought from e-books are "excellent" while 205 (39.4%) of the respondents rated them as "very good." Two hundred eighty (53.8%) respondents "agree" that electronic journals save the time of the user while 219 (42.1%) of the respondents "strongly agree." A miniscule number, 21 (4.0%), respondents "disagree."

INTRODUCTION

The Research and Development in the field of Computers, Networking, Communication Technologies and Internet, in short it me called as Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The adoption of these technologies has made the publishers as well as the librarians to provide faster, effective and

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efficient services to their patrons. Because of the fast pace of research all over the world, the contents in the traditional printed materials such as books and journals become redundant by the time they reach the scholars/patrons for use. This also prompted to adopt e-resources in libraries. Increase in the formation of new subjects impelled for producing more and more literature in all fields at an incredible rate and the users demand for fast access to such information anytime and from anywhere.

UGC: INFONET DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

The exorbitant subscription cost of e-journals makes it difficult even for the well-off universities/research institutions in India to afford. This caused the universities/research institutes to lag behind in this competitive world. At this time, emerged the INFLIBNET centre at Ahmedabad, the UGC – INFONET Digital Library Consortium. It was started in 2002. Since first April 2010 this has been renamed as UGC to interlink all the universities in the country with state-of-art technology. The main purpose of this is to provide full-text access to e-resources, e-databases and open access resources of various publishers that contain scholarly articles. Another primary objective of UGC is to develop interaction and cooperation among universities in India. There are more than 5000 e-journals published by about 24 publishers. In India, about 200 universities and 12 central universities have been covered under this programme and among them six universities are from Karnataka alone. The universities that come under this consortium can share the information, co-operate and co-ordinate amongst one another. The Restricted, Remote, Resource Access (R3) is a facility which is availed by the teaching fraternity. Here, the teachers can access the e-journals provided under "UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium" outside their campus. A separate software CD is given by the institution, which they can install in their home desktop or laptop. They can access these e-journals by just entering the User ID and Password.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ferdig and Trammel(2004) argue that the immediacy and commentary based systems of blogging lead to reflection and analysis and contextualisation of learning via hyperlinks. They further contend that blogs are more successful in promoting interactivity that is conversational as opposed to other online discussion. Research also suggests that blogs allow a more creative response from students (Oravec, 2005) and that the open and interlinked nature of blogs connects learners to contexts beyond the classroom (Baim, 2004).The term MOOC has been around since 2008, but the concept began to generate significant media attention and debate in 2012 with the launch of MOOCs offered by or in association with prestigious US institutions through providers such as EdX, Coursera, and Udacity. In response to widespread media attention and debate, uptake of MOOCs has since spread globally. Coursera and EdX have partnered with elite institutions in Europe, Asia, and Australasia, and new MOOC platforms have been developed including Future Learn in the UK, OpenupEd, and iVersity in Europe and Open2Study in Australia. Joseph Jestin and Ally Sornam (2016) revealed that the use of e-resources in this era of information technology supports teaching, learning and research activities. It examines the faculty usage of E-Resources in Kerala Engineering Colleges and the usage of e-resources by the faculty members of engineering colleges in Kerala. Baskaran (2011) discussed user much more interest on using Internet