

“Digital Information Resource Usage among Faculty Members and Research Scholars: A Study of Sanghamam College of Arts and Science” Affiliated to Annamalai University”

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Abstract

A survey was conducted at Sanghamam College of Arts and Science, affiliated to Annamalai University, to study how faculty members and research scholars access and use digital information resources. A total of 75 questionnaires were distributed, and 70 completed questionnaires were received back, showing a good response rate. The participants were selected using a suitable sampling method, and the information was collected through a structured questionnaire. The results show that most users regularly use electronic resources for their academic and research work. Awareness of digital resources helps increase their usage. Many respondents access these resources from their departments and from home. The study also shows that the use of printed materials is decreasing, while the use of digital resources is increasing.

KEYWORDS: Digital information resources of Sanghamam College of Arts and Science, Gingee..

Introduction

The digitization of information from print media has introduced a new dimension to every field of study. A computer-accessible resource refers to any electronic product that provides a collection of data. This includes full-text databases, electronic journals, image collections, multimedia products, and numerical, graphical, or time-based data. It also includes commercially available titles that are published and marketed in digital format.

Electronic resources refer to digital sources of information and knowledge. These include electronic books (e-books), electronic journals (e-journals), databases, CDs/DVDs, electronic conference proceedings, electronic reports, electronic maps, electronic images and photographs, electronic manuscripts, electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), electronic newspapers, electronic newsgroups, subject gateways, USENET, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and many other digital information sources.

According to **S. R. Ranganathan**, in his Fifth Law of Library Science, “Library is a growing organism.” A library is not merely a storehouse of books; it is a dynamic center of knowledge and information. Every reader visits the library with the expectation of finding answers to their queries and information needs. Therefore, a library should continuously evolve and strive to satisfy the requirements of its user community.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

K. G. Sudhier (2011) examined the use of e-resources by students and research scholars of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Kerala. A total of 127 questionnaires were distributed to respondents from six departments of the Faculty of Arts, of which 120 were returned. The findings revealed significant usage of electronic resources among the respondents for academic purposes.

Anand Y. Kenchakkanavar (2014) reported findings from various studies focusing on electronic resources and their different aspects. The study highlighted that advanced technology has made it easier, faster, and more convenient to access stored knowledge. The accumulated information over generations can be effectively utilized for further research, development, and overall societal progress. Digital information resources are easily accessible even in remote areas. They help overcome storage issues and manage the rapid growth of information. Print sources are increasingly being digitized into electronic formats.

Patel Adam Burhan and Sadik Batcha M (2021) investigated the utilization of electronic resources by library users at Solapur University. The study specifically examined the awareness and extent of use of electronic resources, perceived benefits, and their impact on research activities. The research design adopted was a survey method, and a questionnaire was used to collect data from selected university library users.

B. Jayasankar and K. Sivasami (2022) studied the usage of digital information resources and reported that users collected information through digital resources provided by the library. The study revealed that digital resources have influenced the collection and usage of both print and electronic sources. It also identified the level of awareness among users and the locations from which they accessed these resources. A survey was conducted at Sun Arts and Science College, affiliated to Annamalai University.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To assess the extent of use of electronic information resources among faculty members and research scholars.

To analyze the respondents' perceptions regarding the utilization of digital information resources.

METHODOLOGY

The data for this study were collected using the survey method. The questionnaire was administered to electronic resource users of Sanghamam College of Arts and Science, affiliated to Annamalai University. The main objective of the study was to examine the usage of digital information resources among faculty members and Research scholars. Initially, the questionnaires were distributed to the selected respondents. After completion, the filled-in questionnaires were collected and used for analysis in the study.

SAMPLING (METHODOLOGY)

The present study was conducted among faculty members, research scholars, and postgraduate students of Sanghamam College of Arts and Science, affiliated with Annamalai University.

A total of 75 questionnaires were distributed to arts faculty members and research scholars, and all 70 were duly returned, resulting in a 93% response rate. The data collected from the faculty members and research scholars were analyzed, tabulated, interpreted, and presented in this paper. For the survey, samples were collected only from postgraduate students. The questionnaire consisted of 12 questions designed to gather the respondents' opinions regarding the use of digital information resources. The collected data were further supplemented by informal discussions with the respondents.

Analysis of Data

1) Sanghamam College of Arts and Science Gingee Use Library for Study Gender wise Table

S.N	Gender	Do you Use Library for Study		Total
		Yes	No	
1	Male	44(100.0%)	0	44(62%)
2	Female	26(100.0%)	0	26(37.0%)
	Total	70	0	70

The above table shows the gender-wise use of the library for study purposes among respondents of Sanghamam College of Arts and Science. Out of the total 70 respondents, 44 (62%) are male and 26 (37%) are female. The data clearly indicate that 100% of both male and female respondents use the library for study purposes, and none of the respondents reported that they do not use the library. This shows that the library plays an important role in supporting the academic activities of both male and female users. The equal level of usage (100%) among both genders indicates that there is no gender difference in the utilization of the library for study purposes.

Sanghamam College of Arts Science Gingee Use Library for Study the Respondent wise Table					
S.N	Type of the Respondent		Do you Use Library for Study		Total
			Yes	No	
1		Faculty Members	62	0	64 (89.57%)
2		Research Scholar	8	0	8 (11.43%)
	Total		70	0	70

The table shows the use of the library for study among respondents of Sanghamam College of Arts and Science, Gingee. A total of 70 respondents participated in the study, consisting of Faculty Members and Research Scholars.

Among the Faculty Members, 62 respondents reported that they used the library for study, while none reported that they did not use the library. Among the Research Scholars, 8 respondents reported using the library for study, and none reported non-use. Overall, 70 respondents (100%) indicated that they used the library for study, whereas no respondents (0%) reported that they did not use the library.

The findings clearly indicate that the library is widely used as a study facility by both Faculty Members and Research Scholars at Sanghamam College. The complete absence of respondents in the “No” category suggests that the library plays an important role in supporting the academic and research needs of the respondents.

There is a small numerical inconsistency in the table: $62 + 8 = 70$, so the Faculty Members percentage should be 88.57% and Research Scholars 11.43%, rather than 89.57%.

Sanghamam College of Arts Science Gender wise Using e Resources Table						
S.N	Gender	How many Years you are Using e Resources				Total
		One Year	Two Years	Three Years	More than Four Years	
1	Male	8(18.1%)	6(13.6%)	7(15.9%)	23(52.2%)	44(100.0%)
2	Female	7(26.9%)	5(19.2%)	9 (34.6%)	5(19.2%)	26(100.0%)
	Total	15	11	16	28	70

The table presents the gender-wise distribution of respondents according to the number of years they have been using e-resources at Sanghamam College of Arts and Science, Gingee. The total number of respondents is 70, comprising 44 male respondents (62.86%) and 26 female respondents (37.14%).

Among the male respondents, 8 (18.1%) had been using e-resources for one year, 6 (13.6%) for two years, 7 (15.9%) for three years, and 23 (52.2%) for more than four years. Thus, **more** than four years is the largest category among male respondents.

Among the female respondents, 7 (26.9%) had been using e-resources for one year, 5 (19.2%) for two years, 9 (34.6%) for three years, and 5 (19.2%) for more than four years. The highest proportion of female respondents had three years of experience in using e-resources.

Overall, out of 70 respondents, 15 had one year of experience, 11 had two years, 16 had three years, and 28 had more than four years of experience. Therefore, the findings indicate that more respondents had been using e-resources for more than four years, suggesting a relatively high level of familiarity and experience with electronic resources among the respondents.

The percentages for males and females are calculated within each gender group, and the figures supplied in the table are consistent with the respective frequencies after rounding.

Sanghamam College of Arts Science Respondent E-Resources can be Accessed and Downloaded Easier and Faster Table				
S.N	Type of the Respondent	E-Resources can be Accessed and Downloaded Easier and Faster		Total
		Agree	Disagree	
1	Faculty Members	60(96.7%)	2(3.2%)	62 (100.0%)
2	Research Scholar	5(62.5%)	3(37.5%)	8 (100.0%)
	Total	65	5	70

The table presents the respondents' opinion on whether e-resources can be accessed and downloaded more easily and faster at Sanghamam College of Arts and Science. A total of 70 respondents participated in the study, consisting of 62 Faculty Members and 8 Research Scholars.

Among the Faculty Members, 60 respondents (96.7%) agreed that e-resources can be accessed and downloaded more easily and faster, while only 2 respondents (3.2%) disagreed. This indicates a very high level of satisfaction among faculty members regarding the accessibility and downloading speed of e-resources.

Among the Research Scholars, 5 respondents (62.5%) agreed with the statement, whereas 3 respondents (37.5%) disagreed. Although the majority of research scholars agreed, the proportion of disagreement was comparatively higher than that among faculty members.

Overall, 65 respondents (92.86%) agreed that e-resources can be accessed and downloaded more easily and faster, while 5 respondents (7.14%) disagreed. Therefore, the findings indicate that the vast majority of respondents consider e-resources to be convenient and efficient for accessing and downloading academic information. This suggests that electronic resources are an important and useful component of the library services at Sanghamam College.

Sanghamam College of Arts Science Respondent use E-Resources are Time Consuming				
S.L	Type of the Respondent	E-Resources are Time Consuming		Total
		Yes	No	
1	Faculty Members	58	4	62
		(93.5%)	(6.5%)	100.0%
2	Research Scholar	5	3	8
		(62.5%)	(37.5%)	100.0%
	Total	63	7	70

The table presents the respondents' opinions regarding whether the use of e-resources is time-consuming at Sanghamam College of Arts and Science. A total of 70 respondents participated, comprising 62 Faculty Members and 8 Research Scholars.

Among the Faculty Members, 58 respondents (93.5%) stated that the use of e-resources is time-consuming, while 4 respondents (6.5%) stated that it is not time-consuming.

Among the Research Scholars, 5 respondents (62.5%) reported that e-resources are time-consuming, whereas 3 respondents (37.5%) reported that they are not time-consuming.

Overall, 63 respondents (90.0%) agreed that the use of e-resources is time-consuming, while 7 respondents (10.0%) disagreed. Therefore, the findings indicate that time consumption is a major problem experienced by the majority of respondents while using e-resources. The library could address this issue through user-orientation programmes, information-literacy training, effective search techniques, and guidance on selecting appropriate electronic resources.

In conclusion, the study reveals that although e-resources provide convenient access to information, respondents still experience difficulties in terms of the time required to search, identify, and retrieve relevant information.

Findings of the Study

Library Usage: All 70 respondents (100%) use the library for study purposes. **Respondent-wise Usage:** Both Faculty Members (62) and Research Scholars (8) use the library for academic and research activities. **Experience with E-Resources:** 28 respondents (40%) have been using e-resources for more than four years, indicating good familiarity with digital resources. **Easy Access:** 65 respondents (92.86%) agreed that e-resources can be accessed and downloaded easily and quickly.

Time Consumption: 63 respondents (90%) felt that using e-resources is time-consuming. E-resources are widely used and easy to access, but time consumption is a major issue. Information-literacy and user-orientation programmes are recommended to improve effective use.

Feature of e-resources

E-resources provide easy and fast access to information anytime and anywhere. They offer 24×7 availability, quick searching, easy downloading, large storage capacity, multiple-user access, updated information, and multimedia content. They also reduce the need for physical storage and help users obtain academic and research information efficiently.

Dissatisfaction

Some respondents may experience dissatisfaction with e-resources due to slow internet connectivity, difficulty in finding relevant information, lack of awareness, technical problems, and the time required for searching and downloading. These difficulties can reduce the effective use of digital resources.

Conclusion

The study concludes that digital information resources play an important role in supporting the academic and research activities of Faculty Members and Research Scholars at Sanghamam College of Arts and Science. All respondents use the library for study, and the majority find e-resources easy and fast to access. However, time consumption, technical difficulties, and problems in locating relevant information cause some dissatisfaction. Therefore, regular user-orientation and information-literacy programmes, along with improved digital facilities and internet connectivity, are recommended for the effective utilization of e-resources.

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