

A STUDY ON THE FACULTY AT AN ENGINEERING COLLEGE AFFILIATED WITH SAVITRIBAI PHULE UNIVERSITY'S USE OF E- LIBRARY RESOURCES

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ABSTRACT

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.

(<https://www.igi-global.com/chapter/digital-resource-management-strategies/133960>)

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 fundamental 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.

Keywords:- Digital Library, E-Resources, Data Base.

1. INTRODUCTION

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 Media and mediums in the educational field[1].

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[2].

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 [3].

2. NEED OF THE STUDY

Most of the Faculty members of Engineering colleges use digital resources frequently but it is yet to be found out by the academicians that when, where, why and how they use the same exactly. The scenario now is nothing but the random impression over the use of digital resources. The researcher aims to interview the faculty members, to ask them to fill the questionnaires and find out the use of it in details. To come up with the recent changes, the faculty members of various colleges are also going closer to the digitalization. Most of them are using the digital resources regularly and quite successfully. With the help of digital resources, they are developing their horizon of knowledge and introducing novel techniques in teaching and learning. As compared to the Humanities or Arts colleges, the technical institution and colleges are practicing it quite fluently. Most of the Engineering colleges in Savitribai Phule Pune University have also made technological advancement though some of them are from remote areas [4].

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Survey Method is used for the study. Structured questionnaire prepared and also personally visited to the colleges comes under study and gathered the access infrastructure and e-resources available in their libraries. According to Herman N. Morse, (cited by Bajpai, S.R., 1975, p. 64) "The survey is in briefly a method of analysis in scientific and orderly form for defined purpose of given social situation or problem or population". According to C. A. Moser, (Moser, C.A., 1993, p.45) "Survey has their usefulness both in leading to the formulation of hypothesis and at a more advanced stage in putting them to the test. Their functions in a given research depend on how much is already known about the subject and on the purpose for which the information is required".

Survey method is more reliable than any other methods. The advantages are (Ghosh, B.N. 1985, p.193-194)

1. A survey throws useful light on the different aspects of use of digital library assets by the teaching staff of the Engineering Institutes. On the basis of this survey, a constructive plan can be made for the development of the use of digital library resources [5].
2. Survey helps to gather well-organized information on a particular topic
3. Survey helps to build the foundation for the completion of a research project.
4. A solution to the use of digital library resources can be made, effectively and easily.

3.1 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 [6]-[8].

3.2 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. According to Goode and Hatt (Good, W.J. and Hatt, P.K. 1981, p.185-186) "schedule is the name usually applied to a set of questions which are asked and filled in by an interviewer in face to face situation with another person" According to Bogardus, (Ghosh, B.N. 1985) " A questionnaire is a list of questions sent to a number of persons for them to answer. It secures standardized results that can be tabulated and treated statistically [9]-[15]."

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Instrumentation

The survey method used for the research study. The purpose was to collect additional data for the purpose of study of various projects in the upcoming days. The survey instrument was divided into different sections. Reliability and validity are important aspects of questionnaire design. According to Suskie (1996), a perfectly reliable questionnaire elicits consistent responses. Although it is difficult to develop, it is reasonable to design a questionnaire that approaches a consistent level of response. Leary (1995) offers seven guidelines for designing a useful questionnaire:

- ◆ Use precise terminology in phrasing the questions.
- ◆ Write the questions as simply as possible, avoiding difficult words, unnecessary jargon, and cumbersome phrases.

- ◆ Avoid making unwarranted assumptions about the respondents.
- ◆ Conditional information should precede the key idea of the question.
- ◆ Do not use double-barreled questions. (questions that ask more than one question but provide the respondent with the opportunity for only one response)
- ◆ Choose an appropriate response format.
- ◆ Pretest the questionnaire.

Robson (1993) indicates that a high reliability of response is obtainable by providing all respondents with the exact same set of questions. Validity is inherently more difficult to establish within a single statistical measure. If a questionnaire is perfectly valid, it must measure in such a way that inferences drawn from the questionnaire are entirely accurate. Suskie (1996) reports that reliability and validity are enhanced when the researcher takes certain precautionary steps:

Have people with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints review the survey before it is administered. Find out if:

- ◆ Each item is clear and easily understood
- ◆ They interpret each item in the intended way
- ◆ The items have an intuitive relationship to the study's topic and goals, and
- ◆ Your intent behind each item is clear to colleagues knowledgeable about the subject.

Considering these principles, the researcher asked a panel of experts, including a former school board chairman, an assistant superintendent for facilities, and a maintenance director to respond to a survey response instrument and the proposed questionnaire[16]-[18].

The panelist was then asked to review the survey questionnaire and to complete the survey response instrument. Responses to the instrument were grouped as follows:

- ◆ Clarity of directions.
- ◆ Clarity of questions.
- ◆ Relevancy of the question as an important aspect of a major issue.
- ◆ Narrowness or constraint of response.

Finally, the panelist was asked, "Are there any other issues that you think should be included in the survey?" Results of the responses and questions were collected and analyzed. These procedures resulted in the following questionnaire used in this study.

5. CONCLUSION

The researcher sees 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.

All hundred percent faculty members use computer, among that Eighty Three percent staff daily spend more than one hour on computers. Majority of 88.42% of the teaching staff members are using Google group for share e-content. 93.24% of the teaching staff members are familiar with digital resources. 56.33% staff members they were obtain expertise to use digital assets through self study method, etc. Majority 60.48% of the staff members access digital assets at college library.

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