

User Attitudes towards Electronic Resources in Ishwarchand Vidya Sagar Institute of Technology, Mathura (U.P.)

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Abstract

Users are increasingly expected to use electronic resources while at institute. Studies were undertaken to determine the level of use of this type of resource, how students feel about various issues surrounding electronic resources and whether attitudes change dependent upon subject studied. 118 users across the institute completed questionnaires to determine level of use of various electronic information resources; ways in which they felt electronic resources had hindered or improved their academic career.

Keywords: E-resource, academic career.

1. Introduction

We are living in an age of information explosion. Computer and other electronic resources has become an indispensable tool in our society. The main function of a library is to provide information to the users. With the help of electronic resources the students can access to the huge volume of information with speed and accuracy. The user community in an engineering library system constitutes the faculty, students, from the view of point of the user whether he is the student, he needs variety of information. An attitude is a mental state of readiness exerting directive or dynamic influence upon individual's response to all objects and situations with which it is related. Electronic resources are some of the most important aspects of a digital library.

Users are increasingly expected to use electronic resources. Studies were undertaken to determine the level of use of this type of resource, how users feel about various issues surrounding electronic resources and whether attitudes change dependent upon subject studied to determine level of use of various electronic information resources, ways in which they felt electronic resources had hindered or improved their academic career, if they perceived themselves capable of using the resources, would the standard of their work suffer without the use of these resources and the various methods employed to acquire the skills necessary to use the sources.

Ishwarchand Vidya Sagar Institute of Technology, Mathura (UP) was setup in 2006 by Late Prof. Murli Manohar Agrawal, Ex-Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Govt. of India. The Institute is working under the society Radha Bihari Shiksha Samiti, The campus is spread over 26 acres of land, well equipped lab and Wi-Fi campus to facilitate the process of learning. Courses are approved by AICTE and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Uttar Pradesh. Courses are running B.Tech 4yrs (Branches : Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Computer Science Engineering, Information Technology), MBA 2years and Diploma 3 years (Branches: Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Computer Science Engineering) Diploma courses are approved by Board of Technical Education, Lucknow. Library of Institute has rich collection of electronic and non electronic resources.

2. Objectives

The main objective of the study is the user's attitude towards electronic resources in Ishwarchand Vidya Sagar Institute of Technology, Mathura (UP).

3. Methodology

The survey used the questionnaire tool to know the access and awareness of electronic resources among the students & faculties of Ishwarchand Vidya Sagar Institute of Technology, Mathura (UP). Nearly 150 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty and students. But out of 150 Users, 118 (78.7%) were responded.

4. Data Analysis

A simple percentage analysis was carried out for the major part of the data analysis.

Table 1: profile of respondents

Particulars	Categories	Student	Faculty	Total
Gender	Male	70 (76.9 %)	11 (40.7 %)	81 (68.6%)
	Female	21 (23.1 %)	16 (59.3 %)	37(31.4%)

Table 2: Level of Awareness and use of E-Resources

Awareness Level	Students	Faculty
Aware	79(86.9%)	22 (81.5%)
Somewhat aware	12(13.1%)	5(18.5%)
Unaware	0	0

Table 3: Experience in using E-Resources

Experience	Students	Faculty
< 1 year	15(16.4%)	-
1year to 2 year	27(29.7%)	3(11.1%)
> 2 year	49 (53.9%)	24(88.9%)

Table 4: Purpose of Using E-Resources

Purpose	Students	Faculty
For Study	41(45%)	0
For Research	0	5(18.5%)
To update knowledge	23(25.3%)	5(18.5%)
Teaching	0	14(51.9%)
Projects & others	27(29.7%)	3(11.1%)

Table 5: Preferred Type of E-Resources

E-Resources	Students	Faculty
CDs/DVDs	27(29.7%)	2(7.3%)
Online databases	19(20.8%)	11(40.8%)
E Journals & E Books	37(40.7%)	14(51.9%)
Other resources	8(8.8%)	

Table 6: Users Opinion about the E-Resources

Opinion	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Total
IEEE	9(42.8%)	8(24.2%)	5(10.4%)	1(11.1%)	0	23(19.5%)
Springer	3(14.2%)	4(12.1%)	11(22.9%)	1(11.1%)	0	19(16.1%)
ASME	1(4.7%)	2(6.0%)	7(14.6%)	0	1(14.2%)	11(9.3%)
ASCE	2(9.5%)	2(6.0%)	5(10.4%)	0	0	9(7.6%)
McGraw Hill	3(14.2%)	5(15.1%)	3(6.2%)	2(22.2%)	0	13(11%)
EBSCO Management	0	5(15.1%)	6(12.5%)	1(11.1%)	0	12(10.1%)
Elsevier	1(4.7%)	3(9.0%)	5(10.4%)	1(11.1%)	1(14.2%)	11(9.3%)
ASTM Digital Library	1(4.7%)	2(6.0%)	2(4.1%)	1(11.1%)	2(28.5%)	8(6.7%)
J Gate- Engineering & Technology	1(4.7%)	1(3.0%)	2(4.1%)	1(11.1%)	2(28.5%)	7(5.9%)
Others	0	1(3.0%)	2(4.1%)	1(11.1%)	1(14.2%)	5(4.2%)
Total	21(17.8%)	33(27.9%)	48(40.7%)	9(7.6%)	7(5.9%)	118

Table 7: Problems Encountered by the Respondents

Problems encountered	Students	Faculty
Slow speed/ connectivity/PCs & Others	39(42.8%)	8(29.6%)
It takes too long to view/download web pages	15(16.5%)	6(22.2%)
Overload of information on the internet	31(34.1%)	9(33.4%)
Lack of knowledge / training	6(6.6%)	4(14.8%)

Table 8: Satisfaction Level of E-Resources Usage

Level	Students	Faculty
Satisfied	79(86.9%)	23(85.1)
Not Satisfied	12(13.1%)	4(14.9)

5. User Attitude

An attitude is a mental state of readiness exerting directive or dynamic influence upon individual's response to all objects and situations with which it is related. Therefore if we can have some judgment about the attitude of an individual towards a specific thing or activity then we can have a fair idea as to whether the individual can be persuaded to participate in a particular thing or activity and whether he shall adopt it with interest and sincerity or not.

The attitudes are learnt pre-dispositions to respond positively to certain objects, situations, institutions, concepts or other persons (Aiken, 1979). The attitudes are learnt pre-dispositions to respond positively to certain objects, situations, institutions, concepts or other persons (Aiken, 1979).

6. Findings

The major findings are students are leading users of e-resources in terms of respondents.

- 79(86.9%) students and 22 (81.5%) faculty members Aware to use of E-Resources. (Table No. 2)
- 24(88.9%) members of faculty have more than 2years of experience in using e-resources and only 3(11.1%) members of faculty have between one year to two year experience in using e-resources.(Table No. 3)
- Only 5(18.5%)faculty members are using of e-resources for Research and 14(51.9%) faculty members are using of e-resources for teaching.(Table No. 4)
- 37(40.7%) students and 14(51.9%)faculty members are using E Journals & E Books for their academic purpose .Table no. 5
- Users Opinion about the E-Resources are 21(17.8%) Excellent, 9(7.6%) Average and 7(5.9%) Poor. (Table No 6)
- 39(42.8%) students and 8(29.6%) faculty members are problems encountered by the respondent's slow speed/ connectivity/PCs & Others. (Table No. 7)
- 79(86.9%) students and 23(85.1) faculty members are Satisfied of usage of e-resources and 12(13.1%) students and 4(14.9) faculty members not Satisfied usage of e-resources. (Table No. 8)
- 77% of students and 23 % of faculty members. They are giving more importance to electronic version of documents.
- The most popular e-resources were the Internet and CD-ROMs. Other resources were accessed by some subject groups more than others, but this was not done by many of the sample population.

7. Suggestion

These suggestions are following approaches may support to use:

- Ensure there are sufficient networked computers available for users, especially at peak times

- Ensure students studying subjects without an emphasis upon technology receive sufficient information retrieval skills training so are not prejudiced against due to subject chosen.
- Promotion of on-screen help, printed guides and training for the less popular electronic resources, to encourage students to see the potential of them
- Library organises in- house training programmes for library staff for handling of Electronic Information Resources.
- Library has service of e-mail alert regarding new resources available/ subscribed by the library.
- Library organizes orientation and training programme for better utilization of Electronic Resources.

8. Conclusion

The major findings are students are leading users of e-resources in terms of respondents. About 77% of students and 23 % of faculty members are giving more importance to electronic version of documents. With the availability of more resources through the Internet with high-speed connectivity the demand for E-resources in their specific subject is increasing. The findings of this small sample population suggest many respondents do use some electronic resources and are aware of their benefits, but the majority still like to use printed material to complement this technology.

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