

Use of Electronic Information Sources by the Faculty Members of Social Science Departments in Annamalai University: A Study

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Abstract— This paper aim at analyzing use of electronic resources by the Faculty members of Social Science departments, Annamalai University. From this study the investigator is able to find out that most the Faculty members prepare Wikipedia as the first source of information for guiding the students. This study reveals that the majority of the Faculty members are using e-resources more than one hour.

Keywords— E-resources, Social Sciences, Annamalai University

I. INTRODUCTION

The information world has changed with the emergence of the internet with the advent of internet, it is very easy and possible to access electronic information sources and there has been a revolutionary shift from print to electronics resources. The electronic resources are very attractive to users because of the convenience and speed. Due to information explosion and increasing the cost of the publication it is not at all possible to acquire all the information materials by a library which are demanded by the user community. But the same time the success and failure of the library and information system dependent on its collection and services. Hence, it could be realized that the electronic information resources and services which are overcome the problem in the present situation.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

A.1 The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyse the awareness of electronic resources and services among the Faculty members of social science departments in Annamalai University.
2. To study the time spent by the Faculty members for accessing electronic information resources and services.
3. To study the use of various electronic information resources and services.
4. To study the purpose of using electronic information sources and services.
5. To analyse the usefulness of electronic information resources and services.
6. To identify the satisfaction level of using electronic information resources and services.

B. Methodology

Questionnaire method is the popular method of collecting information in Social Sciences. Therefore, the present study the data collected from the Faculty members through questionnaire method. A total of 115 questionnaire were distributed to the faculty of members of social sciences departments, 102 valid questionnaires were collected from the Faculty members(Table-1). The response rate was 88.70%. All the collected data were used for analysis and interpretation and presented in the following paragraphs.

Table 1 Designation wise Distribution of Questionnaire

Designation	No. of Questionnaire distributed	No. of Questionnaire received	Response rate
Professor	25	20	80.00
Associate Professor	35	30	85.71
Assistant Professor	55	52	94.55
	115	102	88.70

Table 2 Distribution of Respondents Awareness of Electronic Resources and Services

Awareness	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Total
Aware	20 (100.00)	30 (100.00)	48 (92.31)	98 (96.08)
Unaware	-	-	4 (7.69)	4 (3.92)
Total	20 (100.00)	30 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	102 (100.00)

Table 2 indicates the awareness of electronic resources and services by the Faculty members of social science departments in Annamalai University. It could be noted that out of 102 sample respondents, 98(96.08%) respondents were aware of electronic resources and services and 4(3.92%) respondents were unaware of electronic resources and services. It is seen from the above Table that the majority of the respondents were aware of electronic information resources.

Table 3 Distribution of Respondents use of Electronic Sources for Information

Electronic Sources of Information	No. of Respondents			
	Professor N=20	Associate Professor N=30	Assistant Professor N=48	Total N=98
Wikipedia	14 (70.00)	26 (86.67)	42 (87.50)	82 (83.67)
Blogs	10 (50.00)	23 (76.67)	34 (70.83)	67 (68.37)
Social Networks	11 (55.00)	21 (70.00)	31 (64.58)	63 (64.29)
Online Databases	12 (60.00)	24 (80.00)	40 (83.33)	76 (77.55)
CD-ROM Databases	15 (75.00)	25 (83.33)	39 (81.25)	79 (80.61)
Websites	13 (65.00)	19 (63.33)	37 (77.08)	69 (70.41)
Portals	12 (60.00)	15 (50.00)	28 (58.33)	55 (56.12)
Subject Gateways	10 (50.00)	12 (40.00)	26 (54.17)	48 (48.98)

Table 3 shows the use of electronic information sources by the Faculty members. The majority of the respondents (83.67%) have used Wikipedia, which is followed by CD-ROM databases (80.61%); online data bases (77.55%); Websites (70.41%); Blogs (68.37%); Social networks (64.29%); Portals (56.12%) and Subject Gateways (48.98%). It is seen from the above table that the majority of the respondents have used Wikipedia.

Table 4 Distribution of Respondents Time spent in Accessing Electronic Information Sources

Time Spent	No. of Respondents			
	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Total
Less than One hour	2 (10.00)	03 (10.00)	03 (6.25)	08 (8.16)
One hour	08 (40.00)	06 (20.00)	12 (25.00)	26 (26.53)
More than one hour	06 (30.00)	09 (30.00)	15 (31.25)	30 (3.61)
Two hours	03 (15.00)	07 (23.33)	08 (16.67)	18 (18.37)
More than two hours	01 (0.5)	05 (16.67)	10 (20.83)	16 (16.33)
Total	20	30	48	98

A study in table 4 indicates the time spent in accessing electronics information sources and services. It could be noted that out of 98 respondents 30(30.61%) respondents accessing more than one hour per day followed by 26(26.53%) respondents accessing one hour per day; 18(18.37%) respondents accessing two hours per day; 16(16.33%) respondents accessing more than two hours per day and 8(8.16%) respondents accessing less than one hour per day. It reveals the fact that 30.61 percent of the respondents accessing electronic information sources more than one hour per day.

Table 5 Distribution of Respondents Purpose of using Electronic Resources

Purpose	No. of Respondents			
	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Total
For Guiding the students	15 (75.00)	23 (76.67)	42 (87.5)	80 (81.63)
For writing research articles	18 (90.00)	27 (90.00)	33 (68.75)	78 (79.59)
For preparing project proposals	14 (70.00)	25 (83.33)	36 (75.00)	75 (76.53)
For special lectures and academic activities	16 (80.00)	27 (90.00)	33 (68.75)	76 (77.55)
For research	2 (10.00)	5 (16.67)	36 (75.00)	43 (43.88)
Keeping up-to-date information	14 (70.00)	18 (60.00)	34 (70.83)	66 (67.35)
For Administrative progress	15 (75.00)	17 (56.67)	24 (50.00)	56 (57.14)
Factual and Statistical information	8 (40.00)	10 (33.33)	29 (60.42)	47 (47.96)

Table 5 shows the purpose of using electronic information sources and services. It is seen from the table that, 80(91.63%) respondents using electronic information sources for guiding the students followed by writing research articles (79.59%); Special lectures and academic activities (77.55%); Preparing project proposals (76.53%); Keeping up-to-date information (67.35%); Administrative progress (57.14%); Factual and Statistical information (47.96%) and research (43.88%). It is seen form the above Table that 81.64 percent of the respondents using electronic information resources for guiding the students.

Table 6 Distribution of Respondents Usefulness of Electronic Information Sources

Usefulness	No. of Respondents			
	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Total
Very Useful	06 (30.00)	08 (26.67)	12 (25.00)	26 (26.53)

Useful	11 (55.00)	20 (66.67)	30 (62.5)	61 (62.24)
Average	2 (10.00)	01 (3.33)	04 (8.33)	07 (7.14)
Not useful	01 (5.00)	01 (3.33)	02 (4.17)	4 (4.80)
Total	20	30	48	98

Table 6 presents an interesting result about the usefulness of electronic information sources. Out of the total 98 respondents, 61(62.24%) respondents were of the opinion that useful followed by 26(26.53%) respondents were of the opinion that very useful; 7(7.14%) respondents were of the opinion that average and 4(4.08%) respondents were of the opinion that not useful. It reveals the fact that 62.24 percent of the respondents were of the opinion that useful.

Table 7 Distribution of Respondents Satisfaction Level of Electronic Information Sources

Satisfaction Level	No. of Respondents			Total
	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	
Highly Satisfied	3 (15.00)	7 (23.33)	12 (25.00)	22 (22.45)
Partially Satisfied	10 (50.00)	12 (40.00)	22 (45.83)	44 (44.90)
Normally Satisfied	06 (30.00)	9 (30.00)	10 (20.83)	25 (25.51)
Dissatisfied	01 (5.00)	02 (6.67)	04 (8.33)	07 (7.14)
Total	20	30	48	98

The above table 7 describe about the respondents opinion on electronic information sources. Out of 98 respondents, 44(44.90%) respondents have given their satisfaction level as partially satisfied followed by 22 (22.45%) respondents had a high satisfaction level; 25(25.52%) respondents were normally satisfied and 7(7.14%) respondents were dissatisfied about electronic information resources. It reveals fact that 44.90 percent of the respondents had a partially satisfied.

III. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

A. The findings of the study are:

1. Faculty members of Social Science Departments in Annamalai University are well aware of electronic information sources (96.08%).
2. The most prominent sources are Wikipedia (83.67%); CD-ROM databases (80.61%); online databases (77.55%) and Websites (70.41%).
3. 81.63 percent of the Faculty members made use of electronic information sources for guiding students.

4. 30.61 percent of the respondents were spent more than one hour for using electronic information sources.
5. 44.90 percent of the respondents were partially satisfied.
6. 62.24 percent of the respondents were opinion that useful.

IV. CONCLUSION

Electronic Information sources and services are playing a very important role in the present day society and also in the library too. It is the prime duty of the concern authorities to select and access the relevant electronic information sources for the benefits of the user community.

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