

Study on the Utilization of Digital Resources by Faculty Members of Shri Vishnu Educational Society, Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

In the present scenario, users are more particular with digital resources as these provide nascent information with the current trends. The faculty members frequently ask for the digital resources for their teaching, research, and academic purposes. This study focuses on utilization of various digital resources and their usage by the faculty members in particular.

Keywords: Digital library users, digital resources, faculty members, information technology

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INTRODUCTION

Digital resources are accessible simultaneously from many points by many users. Moreover, digital resources refer documents in digital form which are accessible through computer-based retrieval system. Digital information resources became main source of information in different categories like primary sources of information; for example, electronic conferences, courseware, electronic journals, e-prints, standards, and so on. Another form of digital resources are databases, data sets, and collections; for example, images, audio, video, achieves, virtual libraries, and so forth.

The purpose of establishing digital libraries in the group is to give accesses to more number of digital resources for its users. Digital resources are becoming more essential among the library users in comparison with the printed resources. Faculty members are giving much preference to digital resources in retrieving the required information instantly. It is necessary for faculty members to be thorough with the latest knowledge in their area of academics. This study covers the faculty members of various disciplines in the group of institutions in using digital resources in their teaching and learning process.

Shri Vishnu Educational Society (SVES), Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh

Shri Vishnu Educational Society established in the year 1992 has stood first among equals because of its quest and hard work to develop as an educational society which stands apart. Under this group, the following institutions are exists.

- Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women, Bhimavaram.
- Vishnu Institute of Technology, Bhimavaram.
- Dr. B V Raju Institute of Technology, Hyderabad.
- BVRIT Hyderabad College of Engineering for Women, Hyderabad.
- Shri Vishnu College of Pharmacy, Bhimavaram.
- Vishnu Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad.
- Vishnu Dental College, Bhimavaram.
- B V Raju Institute of Computer Education, Bhimavaram.

Digital Library Resources and Services

The libraries in the SVES giving access to plenty of digital resources for the faculty members. Libraries are annually subscribing

9,558 e-journals and 121,000 e-books through National Digital Library, DELNET, and INFLIBNET under N-List Program. The digital resources of SVES is as follows.

- a. Ebsco Pharmacy collection, Bentham Science & Science Direct.
- b. DELNET Pharmacy Journals.
- c. Dentistry journals from MDlinx, OMICS, and Medlars.
- d. Engineering journals from Elsevier SD, Springer, IEEE, Wiley Blackwell, and so on, and accessing number of open access journals.

In addition to above, the SVES is providing access to digital resources to its degree college library is as follows.

- a. American Institute of Physics.
- b. American Physical Society.
- c. Royal Society of Chemistry.
- d. JSTOR, EBSCOHOST, and so forth.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are so many research papers have been published on this theme. To support this article, author referred so many relevant articles of various disciplines because this research paper deals with group of academic institutions consists of engineering, pharmacy, dentistry, and so on. Some authors/researchers work on related topics will be as follows:

Author opined that usage of e-resources is quite common among the faculty members of engineering colleges libraries. In the author observations, majority of the faculty are dependent on IEEE journals to have nascent information for their research and teaching activities. Author also observed that e-journals are almost helping them very much in the process of teaching and learning. Study concluded that use of e-resources is mandatory for faculty members to know recent trends in their area of interest and teaching [1].

In this article, author mainly concentrated on how digital resources are becoming more and more important for the academic community. Author opined that the digital resources are considered as important resources of teaching, research, and training. Digital libraries support electronic learning by providing information to the users related to their educational and

research purposes. In this article, author stated that there is a need for a study to awareness about the digital resources available in engineering college libraries. It is clear from the study that the speed of availability and the ease of accessibility of information make the faculty members to use digital resources more frequently [2].

In this article, author studied satisfaction level of the user with the e-resources facility provided by engineering college libraries. The study has particularly been taken up to access the benefits of e-resources over conventional document. After studying this article, it is clear that the libraries are aggressively switching over to the digital libraries by adding more and more e-resources to their users. Author opined that the web revolution has a tremendous impact on libraries in general and on the collection development in particular. With the success of full-text online journals and e-books, the users started demanding addition of more and more e-resources to the libraries. Observations of author disclosed that e-resources play an important role in libraries throughout the world. This has changed the way of thinking, their learning methods and visualization of the facts and theories [3–10].

Author conducted a survey on faculty members of four engineering colleges affiliated to JNTUH, Andhra Pradesh. A thorough study was conducted on the knowledge and use of digital library resources by faculty members. In the survey, author observed that highest percentage of 33% respondents use online journals followed by 25.62% respondents use online databases [11-12].

Author opined that in every academic library users want more and more services and resources from their institution library. Because it helps for their day-to-day study work. So in this study, faculty members wants for the increment of quantity of print resources, publication of e-resources in the college website, and to enable the users for online reservation of books [5].

In this article, author observed that e-resources have become the vital part of every kind of library. Print formats of documents are being

changed into electronic form. E-journals have become a need of the library. E-journals have several advantages over their print counterparts. Author conducted a study on the use of e-journals by users of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Libraries in Delhi region. It indicates that e-journals have played a major role in information dissemination process. The study concluded that almost all users of ICMR Libraries are well aware about the availability of e-journals at their institute library and they are using these journals for research needs. This article is beneficial for the libraries to know the needs of users for better use of e-journals service provided by ICMR Libraries [6,9].

This article basically dealt with electronic journals, in the present situation, they are considered to be a major source of communication of nascent thought. The author studied e-journal facility and their access by the medical postgraduate students in the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Author observed that majority of the respondents are aware of and having access to e-journals for different purposes like study, update knowledge, thesis and dissertation works, and so on. The medical college library in AMU subscribes a good number of e-journals and provides access facilities to their customers. The author identified awareness of the different e-journal consortia in the medical field is comparatively not up to the mark. Author opined that the library professionals should take necessary steps to enhance their awareness and utilization of the available e-journal consortia. The study concludes that in this digital era, more facilities for the easy access of e-journals should be facilitated in the medical college library for the effective and efficient utilization of e-journals for their various academic purposes [7,8].

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Objective of the study is intended to attain the usage of digital resources by the faculty members in the group of institutions. The objectives are as follows.

- To know the usage pattern of the digital resources.
- To know the accessibility aspects of the digital resources.

- To know the influence of digital resources in academic activities.
- To know what extent the usage is being taken place with respect to usage of digital resources by faculty members.
- To know frequently used digital resources provided by different publishers.
- To know about the library staff services in providing access to digital resources.
- To know the satisfaction levels of the faculty members in using the digital resources.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study concentrates on faculty members of SVES, Bhimavaram, and will focus on their various usage patterns of digital resources provided by the institutional libraries.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Present study conducted on the questionnaire method for data collection. The study covers different aspects of the faculty members while using digital resources provided by the institutional libraries. A comprehensive and structured questionnaire, consisting of 20 questions, was prepared. A total of 650 questionnaires were distributed personally among the faculty members to evaluate the available digital resources. The number of staff members in various institutions in the society is given below.

Discipline	Professors	Associate professors	Assistant professors	Total
Engineering colleges (4) ^a	80	160	350	590
Pharmacy colleges (2) ^a	15	22	36	73
Dental college (1) ^a	27	47	32	106
Degree college (1) ^a	7	11	27	45
TOTAL				814

^aNumber of colleges.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Awareness of Digital Resources

The data collected through the questionnaires shows how many faculty members of SVES actually use digital resources and are satisfied in different aspects of the digital resource,

services provided by overall institutional libraries. Table 1 shows that 91.5% faculty members are fully aware about digital resources, 8.5% are aware and no single faculty member is unaware about digital resources, while there are no members who are not aware about digital resources.

Usage Pattern of Digital Resources

Table 2 shows that 34.7% of the faculty members use digital resources always, 27.8% use frequently, 26.9% use sometimes and 10.6% never use digital resources.

Accessibility of Digital Resources

Table 3 shows that 53.8% faculty members use digital resources through the digital library, 26.9% use digital resources from the central computing system, 19.3% access digital resources from their respective departments.

Influence of Digital Resources in Research and Teaching

Table 4 shows that 58% faculty members digital resources are very prominent part of their research and teaching, 30.4% admit prominent, 9.2% agree with not prominent, and 2.4% faculty felt it is not very prominent.

Usage Range of Digital Resources

Table 5 shows that 79% faculty members accepted that their area of interest is being covered in digital resources, while only 21% not agreed that digital resources are covering their area of interest.

Table 1: Awareness of Digital Resources.

Usage	Number of responses	Percentage
Fully aware	595	91.5
Aware	55	8.5
Not aware	0	0
Total	650	100

Table 2: Usage of Digital Resources.

Usage	Faculty members	Percentage
Always	225	34.7
Frequently	181	27.8
Sometimes	175	26.9
Never	69	10.6
Total	650	100

Most Frequently Used Digital Resources

Table 6 shows that faculty members access IEEE 13%, Elsevier SD 10.4%, ASCE 3.8%, ASME 2.9%, Wiley Blackwell 8.4%, Springer 12.2%, ASTM Digital Library 6.9%, McGraw-Hill Access Engineering 4.9%, J-Gate 7.4%, MDlinx 5.5%, OMIX 4.4%, MEDLARS 0.8%, EBSCO Pharma Collection 4.9%, Bentham Science & Science Direct 6.3%, DELNET Pharmacy Journals 2.4%, American Institute of Physics 2.4%, American Physical Society 1%, Royal Society of Chemistry 0.9%, and JSTOR 1.5%.

Satisfaction Levels of Faculty Members in Using Digital Resources

Table 7 shows that 75.3% faculty members are very satisfied with the available digital resources, 17.2% are satisfied, while 7.5% of the faculty is dissatisfied.

Table 8 shows that 56.8% faculty members are very satisfied with the quantity of available digital resources, 31.4% satisfied with the quantity, and 11.8% are dissatisfied with the quantity.

Service of Library Staff for Using Digital Resources

Table 9 shows that 58% faculty members strongly agreed receiving the support of library staff for proper guidance to use digital resources, 33% agrees, while 4.6% disagree and 4.4% strongly disagree.

Table 3: Accessibility of Digital Resources.

Accessibility	Faculty members	Percentage
From the digital library	350	53.8
From the central computing system	175	26.9
From respective departments	125	19.3
Total	650	100

Table 4: Importance of Digital Resources in Research and Teaching.

Prominence	Faculty members	Percentage
Very prominent	377	58
Prominent	198	30.4
Not prominent	60	9.2
Not very prominent	15	2.4
Total	650	100

Table 5: Digital Resources Covers Area of Interest.

Area of interest	Faculty members	Percentage
Yes	514	79
No	136	21
Total	650	100

Table 6: Which of the Following Publisher/s Digital Resources Provided by Your Library, Are Used by You? (Mention All That Apply)

Publisher	Faculty members	Percentage
IEEE	85	13
Elsevier SD	67	10.4
ASCE	25	3.8
ASME	19	2.9
Wiley Blackwell	55	8.4
Springer	79	12.2
ASTM Digital Library	45	6.9
McGraw-Hill Access Engineering	32	4.9
J-Gate	48	7.4
Mdlinx	36	5.5
OMICS	28	4.4
MEDLARS	5	0.8
EBSCO Pharma Collection	32	4.9
Bentham Science & Science Direct	41	6.3
DELNET Pharmacy Journals	15	2.4
American Institute of Physics	15	2.4
American Physical Society	7	1
Royal Society of Chemistry	6	0.9
JSTOR	10	1.5
TOTAL	650	100

Table 7: Satisfaction Level with Digital Resources.

Satisfaction	Faculty members	Percentage
Very satisfied	489	75.3
Satisfied	112	17.2
Dissatisfied	49	7.5
Total	650	100

Table 8: Quantity of Digital Resources Is Sufficient.

Quantity	Faculty members	Percentage
Very Satisfied	369	56.8
Satisfied	204	31.4
Dissatisfied	77	11.8
Total	650	100

Table 9: Support of Library Staff for using Digital Resources.

Support of library Staff	Faculty members	Percentage
Strongly agree	377	58
Agree	215	33
Disagree	30	4.6
Strongly disagree	28	4.4
Total	650	100

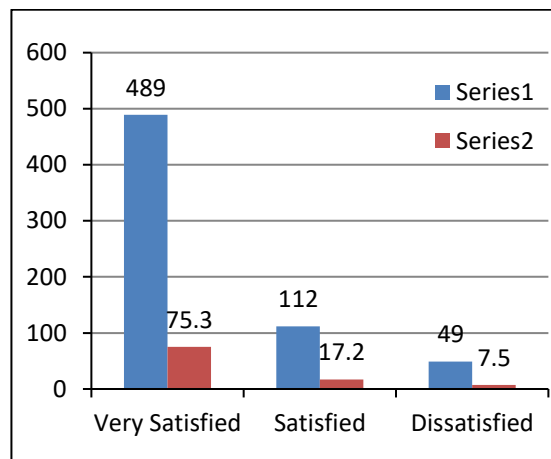


Fig. 1: Satisfaction Level with Digital Resources.

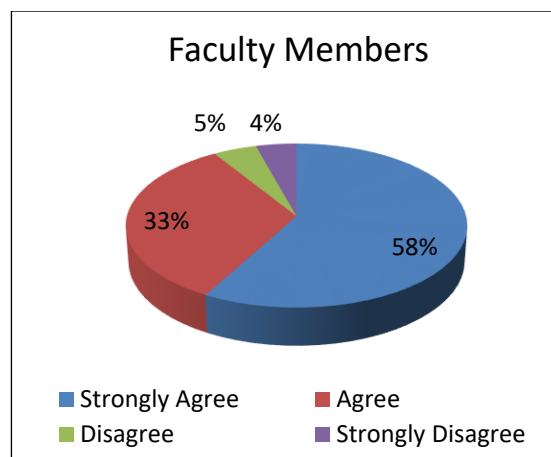


Fig. 2: Support of Library Staff for Using Digital Resources.

Table 10 shows that 46.5% faculty members always require assistance to use digital resources, 34% require assistance frequently, 13% require assistance sometimes and 6.5% staff never taken any assistance from the digital library staff.

Table 11 depicts that 28.5% faculty members admit that training is strongly required to use digital resources, 59.2% agree the requirement

of training, while 6.9% disagree and 5.4% strongly disagree.

Table 12 shows that 37.5% faculty members admit that usage of digital resources highly promotes study, teaching, and research activities, while 62.5% admit that it promotes, and not a single faculty member admits that digital resources are not promote study, teaching, and research activities.

Table 13 shows that 35% faculty members strongly agree digital resources provide best platform for searching the material, 54.9% (agree), 6.9% (disagree) in this question, and 2.6% (strongly disagree).

Table 10: Digital Library Staff Assistance in Using Digital Resources.

Degree of assistance	Faculty members	Percentage
Always	302	46.5
Frequently	221	34
Sometimes	85	13
Never	42	6.5
Total	650	100

Table 11: Requirement of training to use Digital Resources.

Training is required	Faculty members	Percentage
Strongly agree	185	28.5
Agree	385	59.2
Disagree	45	6.9
Strongly disagree	35	5.4
Total	650	100

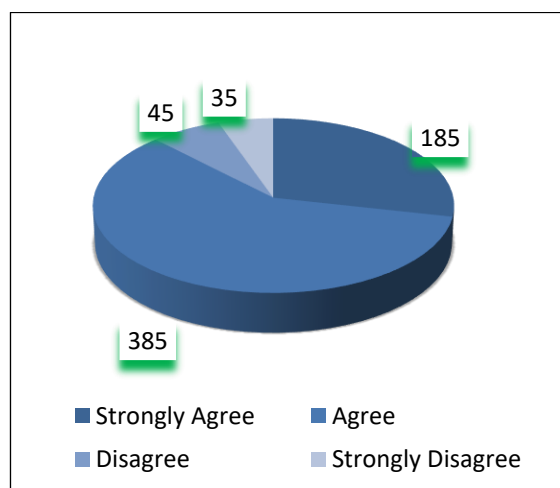


Fig. 3: Requirement of Training to Use Digital Resources.

Table 14 shows that 63% faculty members admit that the usage of digital resources provide high-quality material, 37% admit very high-quality material.

Table 15 shows that 100% faculty members admit digital resources are time saving.

Table 12: Digital Resources Promotes Study, Teaching, and Research

Promotes	Faculty members	Percentage
Highly promotes	244	37.5
Promotes	406	62.5
Not promotes	0	0
Total	650	100

Table 13: Digital Resources Are a Better Platform for Searching the Material.

Better platform	Faculty members	Percentage
Strongly agree	233	35.8
Agree	357	54.9
Disagree	43	6.7
Strongly disagree	17	2.6
Total	650	100

Table 14: Digital Resources Provide Quality Material.

Quality material	Faculty members	Percentage
Very high quality	241	37
High quality	409	63
Total	650	100

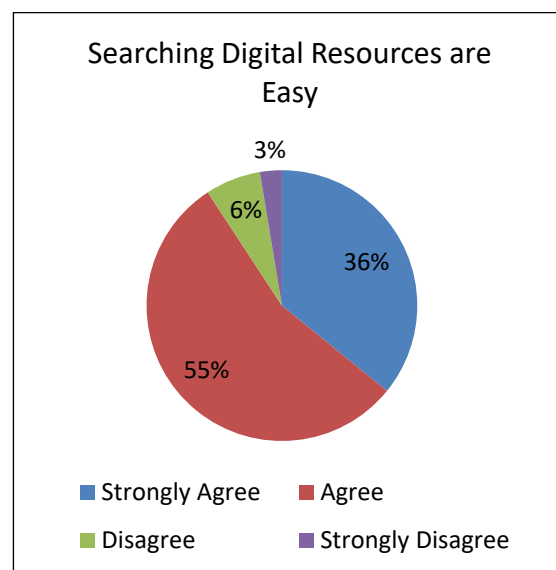


Fig. 4: Digital Resources Are a Better Platform for Searching the Material.

Table 15: Digital Resources: Time Saving or Time Consuming?

Time Saving	Faculty Members	Percentage
Time Saving	650	100

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- This study shows 100% faculty members are aware about digital resources available in the digital library.
- Faculty members frequently use digital resources.
- Maximum number of faculty members accessing digital resources through digital library.
- Faculty members giving utmost importance to digital resources in research-oriented teaching.
- Digital resources of various disciplines like engineering, pharmacy, dentistry, and so on, fulfilling the subject interests of the faculty members.
- High-impact factor, quality online journals are being subscribed by the SVES group.
- Faculty members are very much satisfied with the available online digital resources.
- Sufficient number of digital resources pertaining to various disciplines is available.
- Digital library services by qualified staff helping faculty members in easy information retrieval.
- Usage of standard digital library software which is providing various search options to faculty members in search of required information.
- Search option like federated search saving the time of the faculty members by providing relevant information at one place.
- Most of the faculty members opined to have training to use digital resources.

SUGGESTIONS

- Faculty members suggest more number of computer terminals or a separate computer section for the faculty members in the library to access digital resources comfortably.
- Faculty members suggested to having social media in to library services to provide information on demand.

- Faculty members suggested to providing nascent information on area of their interest. Therefore, the digital library staff must proceed in this direction.
- Faculty members suggest printing and scanning facility in the library.

CONCLUSION

The SVES group of institutions is providing a large number of digital resources for the faculty members that are very important for their teaching and research. Some faculty members feel special assistance/training, separate computer section to access digital resources, printing/scanning facility are required for proper use of digital resources; therefore, library will assure their demands put before the authorities to receive fruitful results.

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