USE PATTERN OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN KERALA: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

Thesis submitted to the University of Calicut for the award of the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
(As part of M.Phil/Ph.D integrated Programme)

By
VIJAYAKUMAR A.
(Research Scholar)

Under the supervision of
Dr. JALAJA V.

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT
2008
CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Introduction
- Summery of findings
- Tenability of hypothesis
- Suggestion for improving the Use of electronic information resources
- Suggestion for further research
- Conclusion
CHAPTER V

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Information is a fundamental resource for social development and for the progress of the society. During the passage of years the mode and methods of accessing information has change. Technology in its broad sense is the main factor determines the development of information. Electronic information resources provide unprecedented access to digital information. Electronic information resources allows users to access information through remote terminals situated outside the library, save time, give greater access to current information, and allow to get more information with less effort.

Overall works and detailed analysis in previous sections have been reviewed in this chapter to reach a meaningful conclusion. This chapter includes major findings, conclusion reached, and tenability of hypothesis, suggestion for improvement of the condition and for further research.

Based on the analysis of data the following finding and suggestions are made to improve the use of electronic information resources in the college libraries in Kerala.

5.1 Major Findings

1. UGC NAAC Accreditation improves the present quality and environment of the college. For getting NAAC accreditation the colleges are competing each other for developing the existing condition of the college. An average of 138 Arts and Science colleges throughout in Kerala are accredited by NAAC. As per the analysis 432 (72 Percent) undergraduate and postgraduate students said, they are
studying in the NAAC Accredited colleges. So they have more facilities than that of the not accredited colleges.

2. For considering the frequency of visit to the library 144(24 Percent) females and 174(29 Percent) male students visiting the library daily. This shows male students are visiting the library daily than compared to the female students.

3. The average time spent in the library 150(25 Percent) female and 84(14 Percent) male spent between half an hours to 2 hours. This shows that female students spending more time to the library than compared to the male students.

4. Library users make use of internet facility for academic purposes and the web browsing, email searching, chatting, accessing e-journals, job search, seminar preparation etc.

5. The number of students that is 366 (61 Percent) students are using internet for academic purpose and 198 (33 Percent) using internet for searching the jobs. Only 3 Percent students using internet for chatting.

6. For the rating of information retrieved for the internet that is the accessibility, accuracy, authoritative etc for this an average 406 (67 Percent) students said accessibility is good and 78 Percent commends about the accuracy and 68 Percent said about the authoritativeness. All these show that due to the influence of Information Technology, students heavily depending internet for searching informations for their academic activities. As per the review of Natrajan (2003) also mentioned about the influence of the internet and its influence of the academic activities of the students.
7. About 78 Percent students faced difficulty while accessing the internet and 57 Percent students faces difficulty while opening the WebPages and 37 Percent faced difficulty while browsing 63 Percent students facing difficulty while downloading from the internet. A majority 64 Percent students getting back up or outdated informations from the internet.

8. The favorable search engine according to the students is Google, 40 Percent students using Google as search engine for searching informations form the internet, 31 Percent using Yahoo, 13 Percent using Altavista, 5 Percent Infoseek and 11 Percent others. The literature review mentioned in this thesis (The Panda K.C2006) has conducted a study has the same opinion regarding the popularity of search engines.

9. The first priority given by the students for the using of internet is 63 percent for project work 36 Percent for preparing study materials, 25 Percent for writing article, 19 Percent for preparing seminar papers, 32 Percent for up dating knowledge.

10. Most used library and information web services; according to the students is that the online e-journals 49 Percent. The study of (Frnklin 2001) showed in literature review has the same opinion that the number of e journals available online is increasing day by day.

11. For using electronic information resources training and help is needed but 63 Percent students said that they are not getting any help or training from their library for using internet and electronic information sources. This shows that an urgent training is essential for the college students for the using of modern electronic information resources.
12. About 85 percent students said that their colleges have no webpage or portal so they are not visiting their college websites. This shows the urgent development of the college website duly update in time, is essential in modern IT age.

13. The Engineering colleges in Kerala and IIT’s have an independent library website but the arts and science college library have no independent library website. Among the students 97 Percent said that their colleges have no independent college library website. This shows it is very urgent to create independent college library website for the arts and science college libraries in Kerala.

14. An average 72 Percent student said that the electronic information resources available in their college library and through online support their academic activities.

15. A grand total of 132 (22 Percent) females and 216 (36 Percent) male students said that the electronic information resources available in the college library supporting their academic activities in a greater extent.

16. About 45 Percent students are satisfied with the services provided by the college library for using electronic information sources.

17. For getting help from the library 92(15 Percent) females and 133 (22.16 Percent) male students said that they are getting help from the library for using the electronic information resources available in the college library.

18. Opinion regarding electronic information resources available in the college library, an average 46 percent UG and 32 Percent PG students opines that the e-journals available in the college library is good, and 17 percent UG and 20 Percent PG said that the online databases
available is good, and 17 percent UG and 20 percent PG students opines the CD-ROM databases available in the library is good.

19. The college students an average 45 percent UG and 35 percent PG students said that the e-sources available in the college library influencing their reading habits and they are satisfied with the using e-sources.

20. Grand total of 345 (57.50 percent) students giving more preference to the e-sources than compared to the conventional printed books only 159 (26.50 percent) gives preference to the conventional printed books.

21. An average 23 percent UG and 25 percent PG students agree that e-resources are a pre-requisite to satisfying their information needs.

22. A grand total of 65 percent students said that electronic resources are not a supplement to the print medium. Electronic resources have a separate or independent role for helping their academic purpose and updating knowledge.

23. The number of college students that is 69 percent admits that the electronic resources are not badly affecting their reading habits than compared to the conventional book or print medium but only supporting.

24. Majority of the students that is 82 percent said that the value of electronic resources is very much on conducting their study and research.

25. An average 85 percent respondent said due to the influence of electronic information sources their quality of learning/research is improved very much.
26. The reason for opting e-resources, 33 Percent students said the information available in electronic form is easy to search and 21 Percent students said the search output is get conveniently copy on floppy/CD/Print out and 16 Percent students said the information got from electronic information resources is not getting elsewhere and 30 Percent said e-resources helps to get recent developments in research.

27. An average 71 Percent students said that their curriculum recommends using or exploiting the e-resources

28. Only 43 Percent students are accessing e- journals from the university library and 23 Percent from their college library.

29. Majority 83 Percent students said that their colleges have no infonet facility. This shows the infonet that is UGC e-journal consortium is urgent to the college library.

30. Above 50 Percent students are satisfied with the facility that is printing, CD-writing, number of computer etc of the college library.

5.2 Tenability of Hypothesis

On the basis of the findings drawn out of the study, the tenability of the hypothesis formulated for the study is tested.

**Hypothesis-1**

“Users are not fully satisfied with the electronic information resources available in the college libraries in Kerala”

This is evident from the finding no.7: About 78 Percent students faced difficulty while accessing the internet and 57 Percent students faced difficulty while opening the web pages and 37 Percent faced difficulty while browsing and 63 Percent students facing difficulty while down loading from the internet.
and a majority 64 Percent students getting outdated or back up informations from the internet.

The finding no 11: For using electronic information resources training and help is needed but 63 Percent students said that they are not getting any help or training from their library for using internet and electronic information sources and services.

The finding no 13: proves through the statement of students that 97 Percent colleges have no independent college library website.

Hence the first hypothesis has been established by the above findings of the study.

Hypothesis-2

“There is a significant difference between male and female students regarding the use of electronic resources in college libraries in Kerala”.

To this finding no2: for considering the frequency of visit to the library 24 Percent females and 29 Percent male students visiting the library daily. This shows male students are visiting the library daily than compared to the female students.

Finding no 3: 25 Percent female and 14 Percent male students said that they are spending between half hours to 2 hours time in the library. This shows that female students spending more time to the library than compared to the male students.

Finding no15: A grand total of 22 Percent females and 36 Percent male students said that the electronic information resources available in the college library supporting their academic activities in a greater extent.

Hence the second hypothesis has been accepted.
Hypothesis-3

“There exists a significant difference between UG and PG students in the use of electronic information resources”

To this finding no 18: Opinion regarding electronic information resources available in the college library, an average 46 percent UG and 32 Percent PG students opines that the e-journals available in the college library is good, and 17 percent UG and 20 Percent PG said that the online databases available is good, and 17 percent UG and 20 Percent PG students opines the CD-ROM databases available in the library is good and

The finding no19: The college students an average 45 Percent UG and 35 Percent PG students said that the e-sources available in the college library influencing their reading habits and they are satisfied with the using e-sources.

Finding no: 21 An average 23 Percent UG and 25 Percent PG students agree that e-resources are a pre-requisite to satisfying their information needs.

Hence the second hypothesis has been accepted based upon the findings.

Hypothesis-4

“The use of electronic information resources is very high for the academic activities of the college students”

Based upon the finding no 6,9,10,14,15,16,18,19,22,24,25,26 the hypotheses 4 is accepted and fully substantiated.

Hypothesis-5

“The UGC NAAC accreditation improves the present quality and environment of the colleges”
The finding no1: For getting NAAC accreditation the colleges are competing each other for developing the existing condition of the college. An average of 138 Arts and Science colleges throughout in Kerala are accredited by NAAC. As per the analysis 432 (72 Percent) undergraduate and postgraduate students said, they are studying in the NAAC Accredited colleges. So they have more facilities than that of the not accredited colleges. So the hypothesis 5 is established substantiated and accepted.

**Hypothesis-6**

“Electronic Journals are the most favored electronic information resources available in the colleges”

This hypothesis is proved in the finding no.10 hence the hypothesis is accepted.

**Hypothesis-7**

“Most of the users are not properly using the electronic information resource available in the college library”

The finding no 11: For using electronic information resources training and help is needed but 63 Percent students said that they are not getting any help or training form their library for using the internet and the electronic information resources.

So the hypothesis 7 is established correct.

**5.3 Suggestion for improving the use of Electronic Information Resources**

The investigator is offering the following suggestions for improving the use of electronic information resources in the college libraries by the students on the basis of the present study.
1. User education is necessary for the students of the colleges regarding the OPAC, e-journals, Infonet, Edusat services to make effective and efficient use of these resources.

2. To take steps from the government, UGC and other agencies like BSNL, VSNL to provide internet connection to the college libraries in Kerala at free of cost.

3. Every college library has to provide CD-ROM books, CD/DVD databases, bibliographic databases etc to satisfy the needs of the students. This will help them to cope up with new and latest developments.

4. All the information of the holdings of the library has to be made available electronically so that the students can retrieve information very quickly and easily.

5. Every college must have an independent library web page or portal for showing the working time of the library, number of books, reservation, renovation, OPAC etc. Considering the widespread use of the internet it is useful to create library website for browsing information to the students from any where at any time.

6. The internet facility should be made available in every departments of the college to maximize the use of internet by the students.

7. Each department of the college and the central library is connected with Local Area Net Works (LAN) facility for downloading information from the library for the students and teachers of the college.

8. The students should be taught about the search strategies and the use of controlled vocabulary to make the online search process easier and
precise and to make optimum utilization of the internationally available online information sources.

9. College libraries should be promoted to participate in local, regional and the national consortia of networks such as INFLIBNET, DELNET etc. E-journal consortia is made available through UGC INONET should be brought down to the college libraries also.

10. A good and user friendly software is used for IT applications of the college libraries.

11. College libraries need better finance, if they are to give more productive and effective information resources and services.

12. A good digital library system is enforced to every college libraries in Kerala which is the main features of present day global information society including library and information.

13. The IT application of the college libraries in Kerala is needed a good man power, skill and expertise of the library staff. So the librarians and staffs of the college libraries had given proper training and refreshed course for updating their knowledge time to time.

5.4 Suggestion for Further Research

The investigator, while conducting the present study, could identify certain areas for further research. They are as follows

1. Detailed studies may be carried out on developing library consortia of different arts and science college libraries in Kerala.

2. Impact of information and communication technology on collection development and provision of information services in academic libraries of the state can be carried out.
3. The information search pattern of the college students in the electronic environment can be conducted.

4. The use of a unified or national level Library Software application and its urgency and need in the arts and Science College in Kerala in the new electronic environment can be conducted.

5.5 Conclusion

Several experts have conducted a number of works in the field of usage of electronic information resources. The perspective of the present study can be understood from the related literature review in this chapter. A preliminary review of the literature revealed that the studies about the use of EIR in the college libraries in Kerala are negligible or insignificant. Most of the colleges in the rural area have no Internet connection. So the lack of expertness and unawareness leads to the students of the college for avoiding the electronic information resources. Serious efforts should take to conduct studies on the use of EIR and related technologies used by the students and teachers of the college, which is need of the Electronic Information Era.