ABSTRACT

Changes in technology in recent years have dramatically altered the method accessing, storing and disseminating the information. The information provision in academic libraries was previously based upon the collection of physical library materials whereas it is now increasingly towards digital materials and are moving into the virtual arena. Literally huge amount has been spent towards digital library resources especially in University libraries.

Although the digital library is preferred for information retrieval, it has some bottlenecks. If these bottlenecks can be overcome which will raise the digital library process for enhancing the use digital information, it is essential to make few modifications in the structure of digital library Architecture for making it compatible with users. Hence it has become mandatory to know the opinion among Library and Information Professionals about their use in University library.

In Tamil Nadu 20 State Universities, 32 Deemed Universities and 2 Central Universities in Tamil Nadu. Each university established library. A total of 520 questionnaires were distributed. Out of which 372 were responded and response rate is 71.54%.

This study has been framed with the following objectives;

1. To identify the views, needs and importance of digital library sources and services among Library and Information Science professionals of University Libraries of Tamil Naud.

2. To identify the respondents’ perception on use and usages of digital resources and services by users of the library.

3. To identify the role of technology and content aspects of digital library resources and services.
4. To identify the barriers on digital resources and services as well as the future trend of these digital sources.

Based on the review of literature, a structured questionnaire has been designed to collect data from the LIS professionals of University libraries in Tamil Nadu. A total of 520 questionnaires were distributed. Out of 520 questionnaires distributed, 372 were responded. The information was collected on four broad concepts such as “Views, needs and Importance of digital resources and services”; “Use and Usage on digital resources and services”; “The role of technology and content aspect of digital resources” and “Barriers and future trends of digital resources.” The data collected from the questionnaire has been analysed to the hypotheses framed and fulfill the stated objectives. For this purpose, SPSS software package has been used. Statistical analysis techniques such as frequency distribution, percentage analysis, weighted arithmetic mean and standard deviation have been employed depending on the nature of the data collected from the respondents. Finally, the study provides the summary of the major findings and observations.