Chapter 7

7.1 Preamble to the Study:

The present study possesses certain limitations as the study is limited to the teachers and research scholars working in Bangalore Region engineering colleges of VTU only. Faculty members are engaged in teaching undergraduate and post graduate courses and research scholars who have undertaken research work. The engineering colleges of Bangalore region comprising six districts of Karnataka State viz., Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban, Ramanagar, Tumkur, Kolar, and Chikkaballapur were only included in the study. The total survey population of 866 (Response received out of 1000 questionnaires administered) was taken on the basis of availability of users during the time of the survey. The total number of users surveyed was based on random selection and categorized as Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Research Scholars working in various departments of the selected engineering colleges under study. The data was collected through survey methods with the help of a structured questionnaire.

The accessibility and availability issues regarding the information were discussed with the experts, and professors and the questions proposed by them were included in the questionnaires prepared for the final research study. The data collected was analyzed with descriptive statistics methods using SPSS software package and presented in the form of Tables for the goal of a clear understanding of the survey results.
7.2 Conclusion:

1. It is found from the study that the libraries are transforming due to the impact of ICT and they are changing rapidly in their content, organizing and processing. The services have also been getting changed along with the collection. Considering all these factors, it is concluded that such a study of information seeking behavior in an electronic environment was appropriately undertaken to present them through an analytical study.

2. The libraries are facilitators for the provision and use of different kinds and categories of information sources, print, non-print, electronic, online and others. The use of these resources is consequent with the visit to the libraries by the users. The study therefore implied to understand the frequency of visits to libraries, the purpose for which they visit the libraries and the kinds of resources they prefer for their information needs for various teaching and research activities.

3. It is found that the engineering college teachers are involved in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses and also pursuing research work. They are also involved regularly in updating their professional knowledge and wish to keep abreast of developments in their field.

4. The faculties have varied experience and other determining factors, and therefore it is concluded that a study involving these variables is found desirable though not absolute.

5. The studies of information need, information seeking behavior have been undertaken since long and particularly in the traditional libraries more objectively. The library’s collection and services are moving towards electronic environment more aggressively than in the previous decades. It is therefore sine qua non to undertake the study of use information seeking behaviour, so this study was
carried to arrive at some conclusive factors, to find relation between the E-
Resources and the information seeking, information needs of faculty members for
different purposes and activities.

6. The study concluded that the awareness, use and usefulness of E-Resources has
direct relation with information seeking behaviour, so a factor analysis was made
in this context.

7. The growth of E-Resources in several formats - bibliographic references, full-
texts, and also in different categories like, e-Journals, e-Books, ETD, IRs and
Online Databases and Databases on CDs and DVDs.
Hence the study concluded that the coverage of such formats and media should be
essential component of the study.

8. The growth of electronic resources in the last one-and-half decades has entitled
libraries to share the resources for mutual benefits. This has resulted in the
emergence of Digital Library Consortia and the libraries are now subscribing to
Web-portals of digital library consortia of E-Resources. Hence the study
concluded to analyze the utilization of various web-portals of E-Resources
consortia.

9. It is common perceptions to find out the merits and demerits of E-Resources and
the usefulness, the study concluded that the advantages and disadvantages of E-
Resources are perceived concurrently and there are more technical issues in their
disadvantages and the accessibility any where any time are considered as the most
advantages of E-Resources.

10. The use of E-Resources presupposes the good ICT infrastructure to the extent
possible. It also found as conclusive to examine this factor and the study
concludes that though there is voice of adequacy is heard commonly but there is a
discontent of inadequacy to some extent, in particular bandwidth and download facilities.

11. In addition to good and adequate ICT facilities, the user information seeking also needs that they possess the required search and access skills to utilize the E-Resources.

12. The need for training and education to use the E-Resources is found to be quite essential and it can be concluded that the users lack full complement of knowledge and skills to use the E-Resources effectively and efficiently.

13. The study therefore also examined the extent of their knowledge and skills and kinds of training and user education they need to fulfill their information needs.

14. The user information seeking behavior, which is the core issue of this study concludes that the users seek different kinds of information for different types of information sources. This might, it is concluded that, include both formal and informal sources. However the emphasis is more on formal sources especially for teaching and research work.

15. The study finally concludes that the user information needs, and information seeking behaviour have been changing due to the advent of substantial volume of E-Resources in the last one and-half-decade, hence the studies like the present are very useful and essential.

7.3 Points for Further Research areas:

Information Technology has huge potential for variety of research areas in the domain of libraries. There is a great need to initiate encouraging research and development efforts directed towards augmentation of various advanced E-Resources in an electronic era of libraries for the benefit of academic community. The present study covered Information Seeking Behaviour in an Electronic Environment in Libraries among Teachers and
Research Scholars of Engineering Colleges under Visvesvaraya Technological University, Karnataka, particularly in Bangalore region which is hub of software and education to the country. Based on the findings of this study, the following areas are suggested for future research.

1. Information seeking behavior of users in Electronic environment in engineering college libraries of Karnataka.

2. Exploring the Usefulness of E-Resources by the students for their academic studies virtual environment.

3. Use of E-Resources by students and teachers of engineering colleges in Karnataka of other regions would be adding to more intricate issues for further analysis.

4. The E-Resources are subjected to variable pricing models. The present study has not touched this issue at all. It is therefore suggested that a separate study on the cost-benefit analysis of E-Resources consortia in operation in India be undertaken.

5. A comparative study of users information needs in different disciplines be undertaken, so that the gaps in sharing and the duplication of products and services be identified to normalize these processes.

Apart from these, a wide range of areas for further research and investigation may be suggested to discover new processes, methods and better solution.