CHAPTER III

RESEARCH DESIGN

3.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM


This study examines the quantum and duration of time utilization in search of information through internet resources. This study covers place of access to internet, frequency of access to internet and sources of learning internet. In this study the frequency of using internet resources and relevance of internet resources use are examined. The respondents’ purpose of seeking academic information and importance of different sources of information could be assessed. This study takes into account the respondent’s satisfaction in utilization of internet resources in their teaching and learning process and difficulties faced by the respondents in internet information seeking. In this study respondents’ purpose of using E-resources and difficulties in using E-resources could be examined with due attention. An attempt is made to examine the quality of library service as per their views of the user respondents.
This chapter deals with content and meaning of undertaking the study in terms of objectives and process of analyzing the objectives in the form of formulation of appropriate hypotheses. Further, the methodology of the study is spelt out in mode of data collection, methods of data analysis operational definition of key concepts and limitations of the study.

3.2 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To analyze the respondents’ duration and quantum of time utilization in search of information through E-resources in Engineering Colleges in Thiruvallur District.

2. To understand the purposes of accessing and using the E-resources among users.

3. To identify the most preferred search engine used by engineering college users when browsing electronic information resources.

4. To identify the respondents frequency and relevance of seeking electronic resources information for their academic purpose.

5. To analyze the respondents’ extent of satisfaction with respect to utilization of electronic resources.

6. To determine the types of electronic information resources preferred in support of work.

7. To find out the hindrance and difficulty faced by the users while accessing and using electronic information resources.
8. To know the various E-resources used by the respondents from Engineering College libraries of Thiruvallur District

9. To suggest suitable recommendations to improve the electronic information resources and services for the benefit of users.

3.3 HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses are formulated on the basis of content and coverage of framed objectives and they are tested by employing appropriate statistical tools.

1. There is a significant inter-institution difference in respondents’ duration and quantum of time utilization in search of information through E-resources in Engineering Colleges in Thiruvallur District.

2. There is a significant difference between occupation and gender status of respondents and their frequency and relevance of seeking electronic resources information for their academic purpose.

3. The respondents differ significantly in their purpose of using electronic resource and in the importance of using electronic resources.

4. There is a significant inter-institution difference with respect to respondents’ extent of satisfaction towards utilization of electronic resources.
5. There is a significant inter-institution difference with respect to respondents’ difficulties in access and utilization of electronic resources.

3.4 METHODOLOGY

This study attempts to examine the users’ attitude to electronic information resources with reference to Engineering College Libraries in Thiruvalloor District. Electronic utilization attitude among the faculty members and students of the following Engineering Colleges:

1. Alpha College of Engineering
2. Jaya Engineering College
3. Panimalar Engineering College
4. Prathyusha Institute of Technology and Management
5. R.M.D. Engineering College
6. R.M.K. Engineering College
7. S.A. Engineering College
8. Sriram Engineering College
9. Velammal Engineering College
10. Velammal Institute of Technology

Above mentioned colleges were taken under the study. It is primarily a fact-finding venture. The identified facts are cross tabulated with the institutional background, occupation background and gender background of the respondents.
Thus, it gives an analytical orientation to the study and the design of this study is partly exploratory in nature and partly analytical in nature.

3.5 SAMPLING

In Thiruvallur district totally 21 Engineering Colleges are there among them researcher has selected ten engineering colleges for the purpose of the present study. The researcher has distributed 200 questionnaires to each college total of 2000 of the questionnaires were distributed, 1810 (90.5%) respondents’ questionnaires have been received from the ten Engineering Colleges of Alpha College of Engineering distributed 200 and among them 183 are received, Jaya Engineering College distributed 200 and among them 181 respondents are received, Panimalar Engineering College distributed 200 and among them 182 respondents are received, Prathyusha Institute of Technology and Management distributed 200 and among them 184 respondents are received, R.M.D. Engineering College distributed 200 and among them 178 respondents are received, R.M.K. Engineering College distributed 200 and among them 180 respondents are received, S.A. Engineering College distributed 200 and among them 174 respondents are received, Sriram Engineering College distributed 200 and among them 175 respondents are received, Velammal Engineering College distributed 200 and among them 192 respondents are received and Velammal Institute of Technology distributed 200 and among them 181 respondents’ questionnaires have been received. Totally 1810 respondents are selected as sample on the basis of stratified random sampling. The respondents who have regular habits of using internet alone are selected as sample. The sampling of study is based on purposive random sampling.
3.6 DATA COLLECTION

The researcher has employed a well-structured questionnaire for collecting the data from the respondents of Thiruvallur District Engineering Colleges. Alpha College of Engineering, Jaya Engineering College, Panimalar Engineering College, Prathyusha Institute of Technology and Management, R.M.D. Engineering College, R.M.K. Engineering College, S.A. Engineering College, Sriram Engineering College, Velammal Engineering College and Velammal Institute of Technology. The researcher personally went to the institution and distributed questionnaires to all the library users of the ten Engineering Colleges and collected. The questionnaires have been designed to elicit the background information of the respondents, duration and quantum of library use, nature and type of information required, frequency and relevance of seeking electronic information, priority purpose of seeking information, satisfaction and difficulties in using electronic information. The questionnaires have been prepared in such a way that the respondents could easily understand them. The questionnaires are distributed to the respondents.

3.7 DATA ANALYSIS

The collected data are classified and tabulated according to the objectives and hypotheses stated. First, the data are recorded on data sheets and then fed into the computer personally.

In order to test the hypotheses, the chi-square test and ANOVA two way model have been applied. Chi-square values are worked out with the help of SX package, and ANOVA two way model is worked out with the help of Excel.
package. The general data interpretation is made with the help of percentage and averages.

In order to measure the respondents’ frequency and relevance of using internet resources, the five point rating scale is applied. In the case of frequency measurement five scales are used viz., once or more times a day, one or more times a week, one or more times a month, once in a while and never. In order to study the relevance of using the information, the five point scale applied in the following order viz., highly important to your work, important to your work, partially important, not at all important to your work and don’t know. In order to study the preference of using electronic resources, a 9 point rating is adopted. In nine point rating scale, first three points related to high level priority, the next three points are related to medium level priority and last three points related to low level priority. The satisfaction can be measured in the following way. It includes highly satisfied, satisfied, somewhat satisfied, dissatisfied and strongly dissatisfied perceptions. On the basis of the obtained value for each variable, the overall, education wise, occupation wise and institution wise mean valued are obtained for general data interpretation.

3.8 CONCEPTS

The following concepts are operationally defined for the purpose of the present study.

I. Rating Value of Electronic Resources

This can be measured on the basis of a five-point-rating scale namely, very important, important, somewhat important, unimportant and very much unimportant.
II. Evaluating Search Results of Electronic Resources

This can be on the basis of a five point rating system. They are highly satisfied, satisfied, somewhat satisfied, dissatisfied and very much dissatisfied.

3.9 LIMITATIONS

The findings of this study are mainly applicable to Engineering Colleges of Thiruvallur District and it is not applicable to other colleges. Only ten institutions are selected for this study since studying of all institutions would not be possible for an individual researcher, owing to constraints of money, time energy, and efforts.