

## Accessing Academic Libraries Online Resources

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**Abstract**

The present twenty-first century witnesses a tremendous change and growth in Information and Communication Technology. The e-resources in the academic libraries has enabled the teachers and students to enhance their academic as well as research activities by providing the latest information and access to world wide information. The present study focuses on the accessing level of online resources in the academic libraries by its elite clientele mainly the students. The students of this ICT era should be provided the right information at the right time. The library services supplemented by e-resources is a great boon to the contemporary users. The present paper aims to analyse the utilization relationship and status of academic libraries with the students, and make a correlation analysis of the usage to analyse the positivity and futurity of academic libraries. This study is limited within the graduate level students of the three respective institutions taken for study i.e., arts and science colleges in Tuticorin District. The study has been carried out among the students belonging to the academic year 2018-2019. The study is mainly an analytical and descriptive study based on the response of the student.

**Keywords:** Academic Libraries; Students' Utilization; ICT; E-Resources.

**Introduction**

Students play a significant role in the development and advancement of a society. They need information for decision making, developing new techniques and technologies, improving existing knowledge, and for imparting new knowledge and techniques in their academic and research activities. The libraries of their institutions play a vital role in bringing up the younger generations' mental attitude by supporting instructional, research and learning activities. Considering the significance of academic libraries, they are often viewed as the heart academic activities. Today development in the ICT field and the easiest access to online resources help a lot to the academicians in pursuing their education. The present paper aims

to analyse the utilization relationship between the academic libraries and the students and also to make correlation analysis of the usage to analyse the positivity and futurity of academic libraries' online resources.

**Review of Literature**

Arora Jagdish and Trivedi Kruti's (2011) study si entitled study of National library and information Services Infrastructure for scholarly content: Extending Access to E-resources". The N-LIST programmers have successfully filed in the serious gap fo providing access of providing access of e-resources to college. While there are several government funded consortia that are catering to the information requirements of engineering and



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technological institution. Research laboratories, defense R & D laboratories, universities and other institution of higher education, none of the consortia however targets the users in colleges. The NLIST programmes along with other consortia initiative are effectively bridge the digital divide and help the nation to move towards information rich society. Such an effect on quantitative and qualitative research output is already evident in universe, technical institution and R & D laboratories that had benefit to access to e-resources through one or other consortia.

Patil DB, and Parameshwar, (2009) in a study entitled "Use of Electronic resources by the Faculty Members and Research Scholars in Gulbarga University, Gulbarga: A Survey" explains about the electronic resources and their use by the faculty members and the research scholars in the Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. The data is collected through a questionnaire to study the information needs of the faculty members and researchers in various PG departments in Gulbarga University. The paper has revealed that the electronic resources available in the Gulbarga University Library are much helpful in fulfilling their information needs. There is need to train the faculty members and the research scholars to use the electronic resources.

Singh RKJ and Devi TM, (2009) in their study entitled "Use of internet Based E-Resources at Manipur university: A Survey" find the faculty, researchers, administrators, officials, students and to hers use internet as source of information; erratic power supply and low speed internet access are general problems related to internet full text journal availability has been reported Internet is very useful source of information, adequate stamps are to be taken to provide the required basic infrastructure for fast internet.

Murugesan N, and Balasubramani R (2011) carried out a study to examine the use and application of information and communication Technology in research and development libraries in Tamil Nadu. The study suggested the Research and Development institutions to give priority to consortia based subscription and boost the funds and recruitment of information technology trained staff for better ICT based services and products to their library users.

Jones MF (2005) observed that reference services in academic libraries traditionally included professional assistance with general reference questions, information gathering, development of research strategies, resource selection and mediated data base searching. However, the distance reference

services, rather than in a face-to-face transaction, called for more "innovative approaches" with focus on the internet services.

### *Objectives*

1. To find out the students' using habit of online resources.
2. To find the students' level of uses, effectiveness of library utilization related to various courses in Arts and Science Colleges in Tuticorin District.
3. To find out the ways and means to enhance the students' utilization of e-resources effectively.

### *Scope and Limitation of the Study*

This study is limited within the graduate level students of the three respective institutions taken for study i.e., Arts and Science college in Tuticorin District. The study has been carried out among the students belonging to the academic year 2018-2019. This study is mainly an analytical and descriptive study based on the response of the student.

### *Significance of the Study*

The significance of the study lies in the insight it offers about the role of an academic library in students' life. It is hoped that the study will be a guideline for other such libraries, faculty and the authority to know about the users' information requirement and give them concrete directions for future collection and development.

### *Hypothesis*

1. The level of education of the students influence the purpose of using ICT
2. The users are satisfied with the ICT based services provided by the library.
3. There is no significant difference in using search engines and search techniques among students.
4. There is no significant difference in the level of satisfaction on ICT among the students.

### **Materials and Methods**

*Sampling Design:* Census sampling method was adopted to collect samples from the universe.

The data were drawn from the Undergraduates, who are pursuing Arts and Science Colleges located in Tuticorin District of Tamil Nadu, India. The questionnaire method was followed for the analysis. The questionnaires that were incomplete are not considered for the study.

**Tool of Data Collection:** The questionnaire was the preferred tool of data collection giving the socio-demographic profile of the participants of the study and for logical reasons. The questionnaire method was adopted as a tool of data collection.

## Results and Discussion

### Status of student and Library Usage:

The status of the students has been taken into account for the study. It is surmised that the status of students influences library usage' i.e., the UG students have a high level of library usage than the others. For this, the students were classified into two categories on the basis of their status namely PG students and UG students as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Relationship between status of Students and Library usage

Sl. No.	Employment Status	No. of Respondents	Average Library usage	Percentage
1	PG Studetns	207	203.28	98.20
2	UG Students	253	191.80	75.81
	Total	460	395.08	85.88

Source: Primary Data

There are 207 respondents who are PG students. Their average level of library usage score is 203.28 of the 207 respondents, 203.28 respondents have their scores above average. There are 253 respondents of UG students. Their average level of library usage score is 191.80. It can be observed from Table 1 that the average library usage of respondents of PG students is the highest.

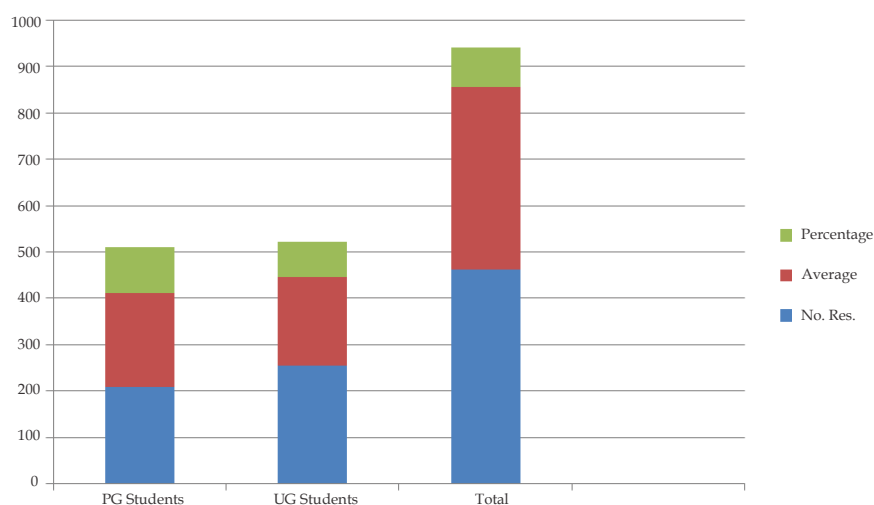
The distribution of sample respondents by their Status of Student and library usage is presented in Table 2:

**Table 2:** The distribution of sample respondents by their Status of Student and library usage

Sl. No.	Status of Student	Employees' Library Usage			Total
		Low	Medium	High	
1	PG students	32 (7.72)	128 (30.92)	47 (11.35)	207
2	UG students	43 (8.49)	180 (35.57)	30 (5.93)	253
	Total	75	308	77	460

Source: Primary Data

The percentage of respondents with high level of library usage is the highest among PG student's. The degree of relationship between status of students and library usage is measured by means of correlation analysis.



**Fig. 1:** Relationship between status of Students and Library usage

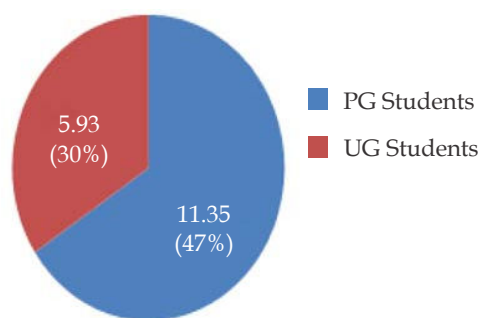


Fig. 2: The percentage of respondents with high level of library usage

### Conclusion

The study shows that majority of the female respondents are highly proficient than the male respondents are highly proficient than the male respondents. It is found out that majority of the respondents from the urban areas are highly aware of the e-resources than those of the rural area ICT is used by majority of the undergraduate students for assignment purpose, and research work. It is observed that majority of the respondents are highly aware of the Information Communication and Technology based E-Learning services. Based on the research findings, it is suggested that separate workshop shall be organized to develop knowledge and skills on writing of research articles using ICT based resources. In earlier days, the users were largely depending on printed resources to collect information for their educational purpose. But, today, the advancement in ICT helps the

user community to access information easily. The information is available in a variety of forms like e-books, e-journals, online databases. In this study, the level of awareness on online databases. Therefore, it is suggested that the library users shall be trained well to improve the knowledge and skills to access ICT based library resources, specifically online databases.

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