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Usage of Electronic Resources by the Medical, Dental and Paramedical Science Professionals in Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Electronic resources are becoming an integral part of the modern life and of the educational prospect, especially the higher education prospect. Students of all age group, house wife's, technician and professionals of all community like academicians, business, medical professionals, lawyers, technicians are highly dependent on e-resources. Govt. of India is also playing key role in support of e-resources, with its special scheme of subsidised rates for subscribing e-resources and internet usage. Accessibility and use of e-resources by the medical, dental and paramedical science professionals in the state of Karnataka is studied. It includes use of e-resources, use of various types of e-resources, Frequency of access to internet, Information searching pattern, Use of e-databases subscribed by the library, Purpose of use, Problem faced while accessing information resources through online search mode.

Key Words: E-resources, online resources, internet, CD-ROM database, medical science professionals

1. INTRODUCTION

Medical Science is important for improvement of human life, lifespan and quality of human life. It helps prevent human suffering and also cures the diseases that are the result of advancing civilisation. It helps to develop new drugs, new techniques and new equipment to study, analyse and cure the diseases.

Dentists restore and maintain dental health by diagnosing and treating, operating on, or prescribing for any disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition of the oral and maxillofacial area. Under the supervision of a dentist, dental hygienists provide treatment to prevent cavities and gum diseases.

Paramedical Science is the backbone for medical sciences because right diagnosis of diseases is necessary to prevent fatal diseases. Thus, Medical Science will be paralysed without paramedical science. Paramedical professionals supplement the work of doctors (medical professionals) in specialised areas for facilitating diagnosis, treatment or therapy. Paramedical Personnel or Paramedics health-care workers who provide clinical services to patients under the supervision of a doctor.

Medical, dental and paramedical information should be accessible, authoritative, reliable, accurate and timely. Due to the needs of medical, dental and paramedical professionals for high quality information, medical, dental and paramedical libraries have been early adopters of electronic resources to provide information and services.

E-resources have exploded in popularity and use. They can and do enable innovation in teaching and they increase timeliness in research as well as increase discovery and creation of new field of enquiry.

UGC has initiated the UGC-INFONET E-Journal consortium is a great boon to academia in the country, Under the consortium, about 494 full text scholarly electronic journals in Medicine and open access databases like PubMed Central, Biomed Central, High wire Press and Public Library of Science, Directory of online journals, etc., can be accessed.

2. BACKGROUND

There are 49 Medical Colleges in Karnataka out of which 18 are Governments owned and 31 are Private one. 10 medical colleges in Karnataka out of 49 are having Deemed University status, one is state-owned and the remaining 9 are managed by private trusts. Among the 18 government medical colleges in Karnataka there are 8 offering only PG courses and no MBBS.

There are 44 Dental Colleges in Karnataka Governments out of which 2 are Governments owned and 42 are managed by private trusts which churn out around 2,960 dentists every year. There are 306 Paramedical Colleges in Karnataka.

An attempt has been made to determine the present status and use of electronic resources (e-resources) in the State of Karnataka by students and faculty members of medical, dental and paramedical college libraries. Students and Faculty are more accomplished and innovative in the work force, information plays vital role, for accessing information and keeping abreast with the new developments, and internet is becoming an essential human need with all its facets.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kannappanavar & Rajanikanta[1] highlighted the use of e-learning resources in medical colleges. Study found

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that the Medical education popularised only after the independence of the country. It is found that majority of the colleges under the study have e-information resources, e-databases. Almost all colleges under study are also becoming members of a consortium.

Emmanuel[2], *et al*. in his study find out whether the undergraduate students in the College of Health Sciences in Delta State University are aware of and fully utilise the medical databases and other online information resources within and outside the medical library.

Renwick[3] in his study found that faculty had high awareness of the electronic resources made available by the MSL but low use of MSL-specific resources supporting the suggested problem of underutilisation. Many respondents felt that e-resources were important, and, though many felt that they were competent users, 83% were self-taught and many still expressed a need for training. Over 60% felt that a workshop with a hands-on component was the preferred format for training. It was recommended that there be greater promotion of the library's e-resources.

Asemi[4] in case study of Medical Sciences University of Isfahan (MUI), Iran showed that all the respondents used the internet frequently because all faculties had an internet connection. It was revealed that the researchers of the university were getting quality health information and patient care through the Internet. 55% of respondents searched for scientific health information through the Internet because the university library provided access to databases and online journals students and staff.

Thanuskodi[5] in his study shows that less than two hours of access to internet takes the first order reporting among the medical professionals of Tamil Nadu. About two to three hours of access to internet the second, 3-4 hours of access to internet the third, 4-5 hours of access to internet the fourth and above 5 hours of access to internet the last. Study reveals that respondents have high problems in accessing e-resources in terms of virus, difficulty in using digital resources due to lack of Information Technology (IT) knowledge and limited access to computers. The respondents have moderate problems in accessing relevant information and taking long time to view. The respondents have low problems in accessing towards slow accessibility, lack of time and too much information retrieved.

Singh & Gill[6] found that 94% respondents are aware and only 6% respondents are not aware about the availability of e-journals. The study found that 38.5% respondents accessing e-journals facility for the last 4 years, followed by 18.3% less than one year. The survey revealed that 55% respondents have limited access to terminals which is a major problem for accessing e-journals, followed by 51% downloading, followed by 40% slow speed.

Bhat & Mudhol[7] in his study shows that the Medical faculty members and students' attitudes seem to be very positive towards e-resources for their study and research and the role of libraries as gateway to provide assistance in accessing these resources. Faculty members and students heavily depend on e-resources for their required information and to keep themselves up-to-date in their subject area.

4. OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are evolved for the purpose of the present study to:

(a) Study the respondents' place of access and methods of search

(b) Examine the respondents' duration and quantum of time utilisation in search of medical, dental and paramedical information

(c) Study the respondents' frequency of utilising medical, dental and paramedical information

(d) Analyse the respondents' extent of access to e-resources

(e) Examine the respondents' purpose of gathering e-resources

(f) Study the respondents' problems faced while accessing the e-resources

(g) Suggest the suitable methods to increase the electronic resource use among medical, dental and paramedical professionals.

5. METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire tool was used for collecting the data from the faculty members and students of medical, dental and paramedical science professionals in Karnataka State. A total number of 300 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members and students of medical, dental and paramedical science professionals. This constitutes 76.66% (230/300) of the total response.

The present study, in its survey of Medical, Dental and Paramedical Science Professionals about the use of e-resources, has the sample of 300 (100 Faculty Members and 130 UG Students, 70 PG Students) respondents, selected from Karnataka State Medical, Dental and Paramedical College libraries. The investigator could collect questionnaires from only 230 out of 300 medical, dental and paramedical science faculty members and students among.

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

The following tables shows that total sample size and response rate of users which have been received in the study.

6.1. Distribution of Respondents by Profession

A study of data in Table 1 indicates the profession wise distribution of respondents. It could be noted that out of the total 230 respondents, 18.27% of them medical professionals, 15.21% of them are dental professionals,13.91 percent of them are pharmacy professionals,13.04% of them

Table 1. Profession-wise distribution of respondents

S. No.	Profession	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Medical	42	18.27
2.	Dental	35	15.21
3.	Pharmacy	32	13.91
4.	Nursing	30	13.04
5.	Radiography	29	12.60
6.	Optometry	28	12.18
7.	Medical technology	34	14.79
	Total	**230**	**100**

are nursing professionals. 12.60% of the respondents are radiography professionals, 12.18% of them are optometry professionals and 14.79% of the respondents are medical technology professionals. It is concluded that more medical professionals followed by dental professionals are the respondents in the study.

6.2. Distribution of Respondents by Gender

A study of data in Table 2 indicates the gender distribution of respondents. It could be noted that out of the total 230 respondents, more than half of the respondents (58.27%) belong to the male group and the rest of them (41.73%) are female. It is concluded that male medical, dental and paramedical professionals constitute more in number than female medical, dental and paramedical professionals, indicating the presence of male domination in medical, dental and paramedical professionals in Karnataka State.

Table 2. Gender-wise distribution of respondents

S. No.	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Male	134	58.27
2.	Female	96	41.73
	Total	**230**	**100**

6.3. Distribution of Respondents by Place of Access

Table 3 depicts the places from where respondents access the internet. The majority of the respondents access the internet from the college/university library (59.57%) followed by department library (20%), home (19.13%) and Internet Centre (01.30%).

6.4. Distribution of Respondents by Methods of Search

Data given in the Table 4 reveals that most of the respondents 149 (64.79%) prefer title to search their information followed by author 43 (18.69%), subject 34(14.79 %) and publisher (01.73%).

6.5. Internet Access

Data presented in Table 5 indicate the profession wise respondents' frequency of access to internet. It could be noted that majority of the nursing professional respondents (56.67%) have below 2 hours of access to internet.

Table 3. Place of access distribution of respondents

S. No.	Place of access	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	College/university	137	59.57
2.	Department	46	20.00
3.	Internet centre's	03	01.30
4.	Home	44	19.13
	Total	**230**	**100**

Table 4. Methods of search distribution of respondents

S. No.	Search methods	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Title	149	64.79
2.	Author	43	18.69
3.	Subject	34	14.79
4.	Publisher	04	01.73
	Total	**230**	**100**

It could be noted that majority of the medical professional respondents (45.24%) have 2-3 hours, (23.80%) have 3-4 hours, (9.52%) have 4-5 hours, (4.77%) have above 5 hours of access to internet. It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that below 2 hours of access to internet is quite common among all the respondents.

6.6. Information Searching Pattern

Data presented in Table 6 indicate the profession wise respondents' mode of searching documents in the library. It could be noted that majority of the medical technology respondents (38.23%) and also medical respondents (38.09%) search library documents with the help of medical websites. A considerable number of pharmacy respondents (25%) directly search library documents. Around one fifth of the respondents search directly in the stock and online database. It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that medical technology and medical respondents mainly make use of websites to search documents in the library.

6.7. CD-ROM Database on Medical Information

A study of data in Table 7 indicates the profession wise respondents' preference to medical CD-ROM database. The profession wise analysis examines the following facts. The medical respondents occupy the first position with respect to their overall preference to all CD-ROM databases as their secured mean score is 4.67 on a 7 point rating scale. The dental respondents take the second position in their overall preference to all CD-ROM databases as their secured mean score is 3.89 on a 7 point rating scale. The medical technology respondent's rank in the 3rd position in their overall preference to all

Table 5. Profession-wise respondent's frequency of access to internet

S. No.	Profession	Less than 2 hours (%)	2-3 hours (%)	3-4 hours (%)	4-5 hours (%)	Above 5 hours (%)	Total
1.	Medical	07 (16.67)	19 (45.24)	10 (23.80)	04 (9.52)	02 (4.77)	**42**
2.	Dental	17 (48.58)	12 (34.29)	04 (11.42)	02 (5.71)	--	**35**
3.	Pharmacy	15 (46.88)	12 (37.50)	04 (12.50)	01 (3.12)	--	**32**
4	Nursing	17 (56.67)	12 (40.00)	01 (3.33)	--	--	**30**
5.	Radiography	13 (44.82)	11 (37.94)	03 (10.35)	02 (6.89)	--	**29**
6.	Optometry	14 (50.00)	12(42.86)	01 (3.57)	01 (3.57)	--	**28**
7.	Medical technology	15 (44.11)	12 (35.29)	04 (11.77)	02 (5.89)	01 (2.94)	**34**
	Total	**98 (42.60)**	**90 (39.14)**	**27 (11.74)**	**12 (5.22)**	**03 (1.30)**	**230**

Table 6. Profession-wise respondent's mode of searching documents in the library

S. No.	Profession	Library catalogue (%)	Library staff (%)	Directly search in the stock (%)	Online database (%)	Medical websites (%)	Total
1.	Medical	04 (9.53)	03 (7.15)	10 (23.80)	09 (21.43)	16 (38.09)	**42**
2.	Dental	04 (11.42)	03 (8.58)	08 (22.86)	07 (20.00)	13 (37.14)	**35**
3.	Pharmacy	03 (9.37)	03 (9.37)	08 (25.00)	06 (18.76)	12 (37.50)	**32**
4.	Nursing	02 (6.67)	04 (13.33)	07 (23.33)	06 (20.00)	11 (36.67)	**30**
5.	Radiography	04 (13.79)	02 (6.89)	06 (20.69)	06 (20.69)	11 (37.94)	**29**
6.	Optometry	03 (10.71)	03 (10.71)	06 (21.43)	06 (21.43)	10 (35.72)	**28**
7.	Medical technology	04 (11.77)	02 (5.89)	08 (23.52)	07 (20.59)	13 (38.23)	**34**
	Total	**24 (10.43)**	**20 (8.69)**	**53 (23.05)**	**47 (20.44)**	**86 (37.39)**	**230**

Table 7. Profession-wise respondents Preference to medical CD-ROM database

S. No.	CD-ROM database	Medical (%)	Dental (%)	Pharmacy (%)	Nursing (%)	Radiography (%)	Optometry (%)	Medical technology (%)	Total
1.	*Health Inter Network India*	02 (15.39)	01 (7.69)	01 (7.69)	02 (15.38)	03 (23.07)	02 (15.39)	02 (15.39)	**4.30**
2.	*All Health Net*	07 (25.93)	06 (22.23)	05 (18.52)	02 (7.40)	01 (3.70)	02 (7.40)	04 (14.82)	**3.22**
3.	*High Wire Press*	03 (17.65)	02 (11.77)	01 (5.89)	02 (11.77)	03 (17.64)	03 (17.64)	03 (17.64)	**4.23**
4.	*MedBio World*	01 (7.15)	01 (7.14)	02 (14.29)	03 (21.42)	02 (14.29)	03 (21.47)	02 (14.29)	**4.49**
5.	*Ingenta*	08 (21.63)	07 (18.92)	05 (13.52)	04 (10.81)	04 (10.81)	03 (8.10)	06 (16.21)	**3.59**
6.	*Blackwell Synergy*	06 (22.23)	05 (18.52)	04 (14.82)	03 (11.11)	03 (11.11)	02 (7.40)	04 (14.81)	**3.51**
7.	*MedInd*	03 (12.50)	03 (12.50)	04 (16.67)	04 (16.66)	03 (12.50)	03 (12.50)	04 (16.67)	**4.08**
8.	*Science Direct*	05 (18.52)	04 (14.82)	04 (14.82)	03 (11.11)	04 (14.81)	03 (11.11)	04 (14.81)	**3.81**
9.	*LWW Online*	05 (19.24)	04 (15.39)	03 (11.53)	04 (15.39)	03 (11.53)	04 (15.39)	03 (11.53)	**3.76**
10.	*Springer Link*	02 (11.11)	02 (11.11)	03 (16.67)	03 (16.66)	03 (16.67)	03 (16.67)	02 (11.11)	**4.11**
	Total (Overall)	**4.67**	**3.89**	**3.55**	**3.33**	**3.22**	**3.11**	**3.78**	**3.91**

CD-ROM databases as their secured mean score is 3.78 on a 7 point rating scale. The pharmacy respondents take the fourth position in their overall preference to all CD-ROM databases as their secured mean score is 3.55 on a 7 point rating scale. The nursing respondents occupy the fifth position in their overall preference to all CD-ROM databases as their secured mean score is 3.33 on a 7 point rating scale. The radiology respondents occupy the sixth position in their overall preference to all CD-ROM databases as their secured mean score is 3.22 on a 7 point rating scale. The optometry respondents occupy the seventh position in their overall preference to all CD-ROM databases as their secured mean score is 3.11 on a 7 point rating scale.

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that medical respondents rank in the first position with respect to their overall preference to medical CD-ROM databases, dental respondents the second, medical technology third, pharmacy fourth, nursing fifth, radiography sixth, and optometry the last.

6.8. Purpose of Using E-Resources

A study of data as shown in in Table 8 indicates the profession wise respondents' purpose of gathering e-resources. The profession wise analysis examines the following facts. The medical respondents top the position with respect to their overall purpose of e-resources as their secured mean score is 4.80 on a 7 point rating scale. The dental respondents take the second position in their overall purpose of gathering e-resources as their secured mean score is 4.00 on a 7 point rating scale.The medical technology respondents take the third position in their overall purpose of gathering e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.89 on a 7 point rating scale. The pharmacy respondents take the fourth position in their overall purpose of gathering e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.66 on a 7 point rating scale. The nursing respondents take the fifth position in their overall purpose of gathering e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.43 on a 7 point rating scale. The radiography respondents occupy the sixth position in their overall purpose of gathering e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.31 on a 7 point rating scale. The optometry respondents occupy the seventh position in their overall purpose of gathering e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.20 on a 7 point rating scale.

6.9. Problem Faced while Accessing E-Resources

A study of data as shown in Table 9 indicates the profession wise respondent's problems in accessing e-resources. The profession wise analysis examines the following facts. The medical respondents top the position with respect to their overall problems in accessing e-resources as their secured mean score is 4.77 on a 7 point rating scale. The Dental respondents second position with respect to their overall problems in accessing e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.97 on a 7 point rating scale. The medical technology respondents third position with respect to their overall problems in accessing e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.86 on a 7 point rating scale. The pharmacy respondents fourth position with respect to their overall problems in accessing e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.63 on a 7 point rating scale. The nursing respondents fifth position with respect to their overall problems in accessing e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.40 on a 7 point rating scale. The radiology respondents sixth position with respect to their overall problems in

Table 8. Profession-wise respondent's purpose of gathering e-resources

S. No.	Purpose	Medical (%)	Dental (%)	Pharmacy (%)	Nursing (%)	Radiography (%)	Optometry (%)	Medical Technology (%)	Total
1.	E-books	05 (26.31)	04 (21.06)	02 (10.53)	01 (5.27)	02 (10.52)	02 (10.52)	03 (15.79)	**3.47**
2.	E-journals	04 (20.00)	03 (15.00)	03 (15.00)	02 (10.00)	02 (10.00)	02 (10.00)	04 (20.00)	**3.85**
3.	E-thesis	01 (20.00)	01 (20.00)	01 (20.00)	--	01 (20.00)	--	01 (20.00)	**3.60**
4.	To access *pubMed*	04 (19.05)	04 (19.05)	04 (19.05)	02 (9.52)	02 (9.52)	02 (9.52)	03 (14.29)	**3.57**
5.	To access indian *MEDLARS*	02 (15.39)	02 (15.39)	02 (15.39)	02 (15.38)	01 (7.69)	01 (7.69)	03 (23.07)	**3.99**
6.	To access medical data bases	02 (12.50)	02 (12.50)	02 (12.50)	01 (6.25)	03 (18.75)	03 (18.75)	03 (18.75)	**4.37**
7.	To access medical publishers	06 (22.23)	05 (18.51)	04 (14.82)	02 (7.40)	03 (11.11)	03 (11.11)	04 (14.82)	**3.50**
8.	To access professional societies and organisations	02 (13.34)	03 (20.00)	03 (20.00)	01 (6.67)	02 (13.33)	02 (13.33)	02 (13.33)	**3.79**
9.	For research	04 (40.00)	02 (20.00)	01 (10.00)	---	01 (10.00)	01 (10.00)	01 (10.00)	**2.90**
10.	For getting relevant information in the area of secialisation	02 (10.53)	02 (10.52)	02 (10.52)	04 (21.06)	04 (21.06)	03 (15.79)	02 (10.52)	**4.21**
11.	For improving medical science knowledge	02 (22.23)	01 (11.11)	01 (11.11)	01 (11.11)	01 (11.11)	02 (22.22)	01 (11.11)	**3.88**
12.	Career information	02 (15.39)	01 (7.69)	01 (7.69)	03 (23.08)	02 (15.39)	02 (15.38)	02 (15.38)	**4.23**
13.	General information	01 (12.50)	01 (12.50)	01 (12.50)	02 (25.00)	01 (12.50)	01 (12.50)	01 (12.50)	**4.00**
14.	Sending and receiving e-mail	04 (17.39)	03 (13.05)	03 (13.05)	04 (17.39)	03 (13.04)	03 (13.04)	03 (13.04)	**3.86**
15.	Entertainment	01 (8.34)	01 (8.33)	02 (16.67)	05 (41.67)	01 (8.33)	01 (8.33)	01 (8.33)	**3.91**
	Total (overall)	**4.80**	**4.00**	**3.66**	**3.43**	**3.31**	**3.20**	**3.89**	**3.80**

Table 9. Profession-wise respondent's problems in accessing e-resources

S. No.	Problem	Medical (%)	Dental (%)	Pharmacy (%)	Nursing (%)	Radiography (%)	Optometry (%)	Medical technology (%)	Total
1.	Long time to view	05 (21.74)	03 (13.04)	02 (8.70)	03 (13.04)	04 (17.40)	03 (13.04)	03 (13.04)	**3.82**
2.	Slow accessibility	11 (22.44)	08 (16.32)	06 (12.25)	04 (8.17)	06 (12.25)	06 (12.25)	08 (16.32)	**3.73**
3.	Too much information retrieved	04 (21.06)	02 (10.53)	02 (10.52)	03 (15.79)	03 (15.79)	03 (15.79)	02 (10.52)	**3.84**
4.	Limited access to computers	11 (18.33)	10 (16.66)	09 (15.00)	06 (10.00)	07 (11.67)	07 (11.67)	10 (16.67)	**3.81**
5.	Lack of time	02 (8.33)	05 (20.84)	05 (20.83)	02 (8.33)	03 (12.50)	03 (12.50)	04 (16.67	**4.00**
6.	Virus	06 (24.00)	03 (12.00)	03 (12.00)	03 (12.00)	03 (12.00)	03 (12.00)	04 (16.00)	**3.76**
7.	Difficulty in finding Relevant information	02 (11.11)	02 (11.11)	03 (16.67)	05 (27.78)	02 (11.11)	02 (11.11)	02 (11.11)	**3.94**
8.	Difficulty in using digital resources due to lack of IT knowledge	01 (8.33)	02 (16.67)	02 (16.67)	04 (33.34)	01 (8.33)	01 (8.33)	01 (8.33)	**3.74**
	Total (overall)	**4.77**	**3.97**	**3.63**	**3.40**	**3.28**	**3.18**	**3.86**	**3.83**

accessing e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.28 on a 7 point rating scale.The optometry respondents seventh position with respect to their overall problems in accessing e-resources as their secured mean score is 3.18 on a 7 point rating scale.

7. SUGGESTIONS

Moreover, infrastructure and training, programmes are essential for better use of electronic resources in medical, dental and paramedical college/university libraries of Karnataka state. The study showed that the availability of e-resources in the college university is almost sufficient for all the existing disciplines. In order to improve theeffective use of electronic resources, in Karnataka state medical, dental and paramedical college/university libraries, a number of suggestions made are as follows:

(a) The college/university management should provide funds for subscription to more electronic primary and secondary sources

(b) Different levels of user education programmes should be arranged for medical, dental and paramedical professionals

(c) Medical, Dental and Paramedical education curricula should be revised at the national level to accommodate the integration of information literacy and the use of e-library, either as embedded or standalone courses. This is in recognition of the changes in technology, especially, in managing medical, dental and paramedical information

(d) User training is essential for the better use of electronic resources in the library since a good number of professionals are searching electronic literature on their own

(e) Electronic resources users should be taught about advanced search strategies and the use of controlled vocabulary to make electronic search process much easier

(f) The library staff should also identify the non-users of electronic resources and proper steps should be taken to convert them into potential users of the resources

(g) Furthermore, since users are experiencing problems in gathering information, the most suitable measures should be taken to overcome this, such as increasing the number of terminals and printers

(h) There is the need for the institutional governing body to integrate adequate information (technology) literacy content into the curriculum for professionals in the college/university

(i) The library staff should cooperate with the users and help them in overcoming the technical difficulties faced while using e-resources.

If such actions as outlined above are taken, then the situation regarding e-resources information in Karnataka State medical, dental and paramedical college/university libraries would improve substantially.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The e-resources have become the vital part of the every kind of library. Print format of documents are being changed into electronic form. E-Books, E-Journals, E-Thesis, Online Databases, etc. have become the need of the library and several advantages over the print counterparts. The present study was conducted on the use of e-resources by medical, dental and paramedical professionals of Karnataka State in college/university libraries. It indicates that e-resources have played a major role in information dissemination process.

This study showed that the uses of e-resources are very common among the professionals of medical, dental and paramedical college/university libraries of Karnataka State. It also showed that majority of medical and dental professionals followed by medical technology

professionals are dependent on e-resources to get desired and relevant information. It was however, revealed that practical uses of e-resources are not worth in comparison to investments made in acquiring these resources. The study will be beneficial for the libraries to know the needs of users for better use of e-resources service provided by medical, dental and paramedical college/ university libraries.

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