

Use of E-Resources by the Faculty Members with Special Reference to CVRCE, Bhubaneswar

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to assess and evaluate the use of e-resources by the faculty members of C.V. Raman College of Engineering (CVRCE), Bhubaneswar, with a view to examine the exposure of faculty members to e-resources. Besides, it aims to highlight the problems encountered by the users and suggests some remedial measures for its improvement. The authors investigate the use of e-resources by the faculty members of CVRCE through a survey based on a structured questionnaire. Various statistical methods have been used for data analysis. The study confirmed that faculty members are aware of the e-resources and various types of e-resources, e-database, and e-journals. It suggests for the improvement in the access facilities with high Internet speed and subscription to more e-resources by the Central Library of CVRCE.

Keywords: E-resources, CVRCE, faculty members, CV Raman college of engineering

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of information and communication technology (ICT) has brought a revolutionary change in the information scenario giving rise to a number of options to handle varied information sources conveniently and effortlessly as a result of which e-resources have become the most sought after modern library's reserves in satisfying varied needs of students, teachers, and researchers with minimum risk and time.¹ Information technology has changed the world and has become one of the important tools for retrieving information. The electronic information resources have acquired a major portion of library collections. The value and use of information resources, particularly e-resources, have increased with the time. Therefore, there is necessity to make study on the different aspects of e-resources and the issues relating to the use of e-resources by users, more particularly by the faculty members of academic institutions.

The present study is an attempt to analyse the use of e-resources by the faculty members of C.V. Raman College of Engineering (CVRCE) and to find out the problems and constraints faced by the users in accessing the e-resources with some purposeful suggestions for its development.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies on use of e-resources have been carried out by students, research scholars, and teachers of various institutions all over the world. Swain and Panda in their study, 'Use of e-services by faculty members of business schools in a state of India: A study', have discussed on quantitative and qualitative use of e-resources by the faculty members of business schools of Orissa.¹ Maunissamy and Swaroop Rani in their study, 'Evaluation of usage and usability of electronic journals', have identified the usage and usability of e-journals by the users of the NIT, Tiruchirapalli.²

Appleton in his study, perceptions on electronic library resources in further education, has expressed personal experiences on the use of e-resources and their impact on teaching and learning activity.³ Nikam and Pramodini in their study, 'use of e-journals and databases (subscribed by UGC-Infonet consortium) by the University of Mysore: A survey' have analysed the utilisation of e-resources and the satisfaction levels of users of Mysore University.⁴ Haridasan and Khan in their study, 'impact and use of e-resources by social scientists in NASSDOC, India', have identified the acceptance of e-resources in the National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC) library in New Delhi, and determined their

usage, performance, degree of user satisfaction, and barriers faced in the access of e-resources.⁵

3. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The Central Library of CVRCE, Bhubaneswar is subscribing three online databases, i.e., IEL Online, ASME, and Science Direct through INDEST-AICTE Consortium. Library also has direct subscription of Business Source Elite from EBSCO. The Central Library is also the Institutional Member of DELNET, New Delhi, and British Council Division, Kolkata, thereby has the facilities to access their online databases. So far, no survey has been undertaken to know the usefulness of these e-resources to the users and use pattern of these e-resources. The present study would reveal the usage and usability of these subscribed e-resources.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

- ✂ To assess the contemporary use of electronic information resources by the faculty members.
- ✂ To examine the attitude of the faculty members towards use of e-resources.
- ✂ To find out the main reason(s) behind the usage of electronic resources by them.
- ✂ To identify and analyse the specific factors that promote or hinder the use of electronic resources.
- ✂ To suggest measures for improving the existing library system and services of Central Library, CVRCE, particularly in promoting the use of e-resources by the faculty members.

5. METHODOLOGY

This study is based on survey (questionnaire) method. A structured questionnaire was designed to collect data from the faculty members of CVRCE, Bhubaneswar, keeping in mind the basic objectives of the study. The data was personally collected from the faculty members. Besides, personal interviews were also conducted with library and information science professionals to assess the problems relating to use of e-resources by the faculty members.

6. ANALYSIS OF DATA

Out of 150 faculty members of CVRCE, only 120 (80 per cent) responded with the filled in questionnaire. The questionnaires were edited where necessary. Thus in all the cases the total number of respondents was 120. The data collected through the questionnaires was scrutinised, classified, and tabulated for better

understanding and clarity. Certain factors like whether the data collected are correct or incorrect, statistically true or not, etc. judged using some statistical methods.

6.1 Classified Data of the Respondents

Out of 120 respondents, 73 (61 per cent) respondents were lecturers, 22 (18 per cent) Assistant Professors, 22 (17 per cent) Sr. lecturers and 5 (4 per cent) Professors. Further 79 (65.8 per cent) were MTech./M.Phil; 31 (25.8 per cent) BTech, and 10 (8.4 per cent) PhD.

Regarding teaching experience of faculty members, 73 (60.8 per cent) were having 1-5 years; 31 (25.8 per cent) 5-10 years; 03 (2.5 per cent) 10-15 years, 11 (9.2 per cent) 15-20 years; and 02 (1.7 per cent) 25-30 years of teaching experience. Surprisingly, no faculty members have teaching experience between 20-25 years. Thus, the average years of teaching experience of faculty members was 5.8 years.

6.2 Computer Knowledge of Faculty Members

Knowledge on computer has become bare necessity for all profession. Realising this, the present study attempted to ascertain the knowledge of computers of faculty members. This study show that all the respondents were computer literate, which is a healthy sign for any organisation. Also, the study attempted to know about the extent of computer knowledge of faculty members Table 1.

Table 1. Extent of computer knowledge

Extent	No. of respondents	Percentage
Excellent	54	45
Good	46	38.3
Fair	17	14.2
Satisfactory	03	2.5
Total	120	100

The analysis of Table 1 shows that as high as 54 respondents, representing 45 per cent of total respondents had 'excellent' computer knowledge. Further the computer knowledge of 46 respondents (38.3 per cent) was 'good', followed by 17 respondents (14.2 per cent) with 'fair' computer knowledge, and three respondents (2.5 per cent) with 'satisfactory' computer knowledge. The results show an encouraging picture of the faculty members of CVRCE on extent of computer knowledge.

6.3 Use of Internet

Internet has become an important tool for teaching and research. Literature on all the fields of knowledge is available on Internet, which is very useful for faculty

members to enrich their knowledge. The present study attempted to find information on the use of Internet, frequency, purpose and place of Internet use. Regarding frequency of Internet use by the respondents, Table 2 clearly reveals that most of the faculty member, i.e., 91 out of 120 (75.8 per cent) were using Internet on daily basis. Further, 8.3 per cent respondents were using it on weekly basis, 2.5 per cent were using it on monthly basis, and 13.4 per cent use it when they require it.

Table 2. Frequency of Internet use

Frequency	No. of respondents	Percentage
Daily	91	75.8
Weekly	10	8.3
Monthly	03	2.5
As when required	16	13.4
Total	120	100

Internet use has both advantages and disadvantages. It depends upon the purpose of use. If it is properly used, it helps to increase knowledge and keeps oneself abreast of the latest developments. Regarding the purpose of Internet use, the analysis of Table 3 shows that as high as 106 responses out of 193 (55 per cent) opined that the Internet was for study and research. It is followed by 72 responses (37.3 per cent) for e-mail/chatting, and 15 responses (7.7 per cent) for entertainment.

Table 3. Purpose of Internet use

Purpose	No. of responses	Percentage
E-mail/Charting	72	37.3
Entertainment	15	7.7
Study and Research	106	55
Total	193	100

Internet can be used in different places according to the convenience of the user and availability of access facility. Table 4 shows as high as 98 responses, out of 202 (48.5 per cent), indicates that respondents used Internet in their respective departments, followed by its use at home (48.5 per cent), at cyber café (12.4 per cent), and at Central Library (7.9 per cent).

It shows that CVRCE has provided necessary facilities to use Internet in the departments. At the same time

Table 4. Place of Internet use

Place	No of Responses	Percentage
At home	63	31.2
At department	98	48.5
At central library	16	7.9
At cyber café	25	12.4
Total	202	100

Central Library has not attracted faculty members to use Internet in Library since 12.4 per cent respondents were using the use of Internet at cyber café.

6.4 Use of e-Resources

Electronic resources along with print resources have become an integral part of a library collection. Also, a remarkable shift of choice from print resources to e-resources have taken place by users for information. Accordingly, a large number of e-resources are being acquired by libraries. But it is a fact that use of e-resources is not satisfactory in most of the libraries, the main reason is the lack of awareness among the users. The present study attempts to highlight on this matter in the Tables 5-7.

Table 5. Awareness on e-resource

Response	No. of responses	Percentage
Yes	117	97.5
No	03	2.5
Total	120	100

Table 5 clearly indicates that out of 120 respondents, 117 (98 per cent) were aware of e-resources and only three (2 per cent) were not aware of this. The result implies towards a positive sign regarding use of e-resources by the faculty members of CVRCE.

The analysis of data in Table 6 shows that e-databases and e-journals were the most used e-resources by the respondents as seen from their responses which are 65 (28.4 per cent) and 64 (27.9 per cent), respectively. It is followed by use of e-books (17.1 per cent), e-theses/dissertations (10.5 per cent), e-newsgroups/magazines (8.7 per cent), and e-article/e-prints (5.2 per cent). Further 2.2 per cent responses indicates the use of all mentioned e-resources by the respondents.

The main purpose of using e-resources by the faculty members of CVRCE is teaching (Table 7). It shows that as high as 82 responses, out of 205 representing 40 per

Table 6. Type of e-resources frequently used

E-resources	No. of responses	Percentage
E-databases	65	28.4
E-journals	64	27.9
E-articles/e-reprints	12	5.2
E-books	39	17.1
E-newsgroups/magazine	20	8.7
E-theses/dissertation	24	10.5
All	05	2.2
Total	229	100

Table 7. Purpose of using e-resources

Purpose	No. of responses	Percentage
Study and teaching	82	40
Research work	50	24.4
Paper writing for publication	15	7.3
Seminar/Workshop presentation	31	15.1
All	27	13.2
Total	205	100

cent indicates the purpose of using e-resources for study and teaching followed by 50 (24.4 per cent) for research work, 31 (15.1 per cent) for presentation in seminar/conference/workshops, and 15 (97.3 per cent) is for writing papers. Interestingly 27 responses representing 13.2 per cent of total responses indicate that the respondents use e-resources for all the above mentioned purposes.

6.5 Knowledge of Copyright/IPR Issues

Copyright and Intellectual Property Right (IPR) are two core legal issues related to any arbitrary and indiscriminate use of any documents. Faculty members should have the knowledge of these while using the e-resources. Realising its importance, the present study collected data on these (Table 8).

Analysis of Table 8 reveals that a majority of 92 respondents (77 per cent) had knowledge regarding the copyright and IPR issues whereas 28 respondents (23 per cent) did not had any knowledge regarding the copyright and IPR issues which is quite surprising.

Table 8. Knowledge of copyright/IPR issues

Knowledge on copyright/IPR	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	92	76.7
No	28	23.3
Total	120	100

6.6 Criteria for Selecting and Using e-Resource

There are various criteria for evaluation of e-resources on the basis of which users prefer to use these e-resources. Also, users depend on these factors while using e-resources. Table 9 shows the various aspects on which faculty member of CVRCE depends, while selecting and using e-resources.

Table 9 shows that as high as 70 responses out of 158 (44.3 per cent) depends on reliability criteria while selecting and using e-resources. It was followed by usability (15.4 per cent), currency, authenticity (13.9 per cent) and other criteria (1.3 per cent).

Table 9. Criteria for selecting and using e-resource

Criteria	No of responses	Percentage
Reliability	70	44.3
Currency	22	13.9
Authenticity	22	13.9
Usability	24	15.2
Objectivity	18	11.4
Any other	02	1.3
Total	158	100

6.7 Reasons for Dissatisfaction on available e-Resources

The study investigates about the reason of dissatisfaction on available e-resources by the faculty member (Table 10).

Table 10 shows that the main reason of dissatisfaction on available e-resource as opined by respondents was non-availability of e-resources as per the need (50 per cent). It was followed by other reasons such as infrastructure is not good (27.5 per cent), library time is not suitable (17.5 per cent), library staff was not cooperative (5 per cent).

Table 10. Reasons of dissatisfaction on available e-resources

Reasons of dissatisfaction	No. of responses	Percentage
Infrastructure is not good	11	27.5
E-Resources are not as per need	20	50
Library time is not suitable	07	17.5
Library staff are not cooperative	02	5
Total	40	100

6.8 Sources of Information on e-Resources

The study attempted to know about the source from which faculty members were getting information on available e-resources at the Central Library. Their opinions have been tabulated in Table 11.

Analysis of Table 11 reveals that library staff was the main source of information for faculty member as 32.5 per cent responses indicates. It was followed by other sources such as library notice board/circular (27.9 per cent), office circular and college website (19.8 per cent each). It implies that the Central Library was playing key role in informing faculty member about the e-resources.

6.9 Usefulness of e-Resources

Table 12 shows the opinions of faculty members on the usefulness of e-resources. Table 12 indicates that a majority of respondents, i.e., 69 out of 120 (58 per cent) were of the opinion that e-resources are more useful

Table 11. Sources of information on e-resources

Sources	No. of responses	Percentage
College websites	34	19.8
Library notice board/circular	48	27.9
Office circular	34	19.8
Library staff	56	32.5
Total	172	100

Table 12. Usefulness of e-resources on print resources

Extent of usefulness	No. of respondents	Percentage
Great extent	69	57.5
Small extent	51	42.5
Not at all	0	0
Total	120	100

than print resources to a great extent, followed by 51 respondents (42.5 per cent) to a small extent and surprisingly none on 'not at all'. It indicates that e-resources were being used frequently by the faculty members. Table also reveals the multiple opinions regarding the advantages of accessing these resources. Maximum respondents were of the opinion that the main advantage of accessing e-resources was least time in searching (18.9 per cent). It was followed by simultaneous usage (17.5 per cent), downloading facility (17.3 per cent), easy accessibility (16.3 per cent), availability of journals before its print publication (14.2 per cent), facility to contact with the authors (9.7 per cent), and archival facility (6.1 per cent).

6.10 Search Strategy of e-Resources

Access to e-resources and finding of relevant information/papers/articles or required e-journals/periodicals from databases is a difficult task. It requires skill and experience on the part of users. Hence the study tried to collect data on the search strategy of the faculty members and whether they needed any orientation/training programme for this (Table 13). It shows that most of the respondents search their required e-resources through Google/other search engine as indicated by 105 responses (37.2 per cent). It was followed by 'as per the instruction of the library staff' (32.7 per cent) and from the 'website of concerned e-resource' (30.1 per cent).

7. SUGGESTIONS

- ✂ Study on the use and usability of e-resources by the faculty members needs to be made on regular basis.
- ✂ Higher speeds Wi-Fi campus needs to be developed by CVRCE, so that faculty members can use online e-resources and Internet within the campus according to their suitability.

Table 13. Advantages of accessing e-resources

Advantages	No. of responses	Percentage
Less time in searching	115	18.9
Availability of the journal much before the print copy	86	14.2
Simultaneous usage	106	17.5
Easy accessibility	99	16.3
Downloading facility	105	17.3
Author can be contacted directly through e-mail	59	9.7
Archival facility	37	6.1
Total	607	100

- ✂ Besides e-journals and e-database, e-books and other e-resources (both online and offline) should be acquired by the Central Library.
- ✂ Infrastructure facilities such as extension of LAN connection with all departments, procurement of CD mirror server, etc. should be developed .
- ✂ The speed of Internet needs to be increased for quick access to the available e-resources.
- ✂ The LIS professionals of the Central Library have to create more awareness on e-resources. In this context the website of library, newsletter of the institution should highlight the available e-resources at the library regularly.
- ✂ The Central Library needs to arrange various orientation and training programmes for faculty members for the optimum use of available e-resources. In this context, the Central Library may arrange orientation programmes, subscribe database. Also, product trials of various e-resources for specific user groups need to be introduced.

8. CONCLUSION

The library environment has currently undergone drastic change in terms of collections and services. The proliferation of e-resources has had a significant impact on the way the academic community uses, stores, and preserves information. The advantages of e-resources have drawn attention of the library users to a great extent. Accordingly, these resources have occupied a significant place in the collection and budget of almost all libraries. Faculty members' 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 are heavily dependent on e-resources for their required information and to keep themselves up-to-date in their subject area. Though some expects that the role of libraries as a gateway to the e-

resources will have less importance in future as faculty members access more and more e-resources in their respective departments or personal desktop/laptop, it seems to be more hypothetical. Rather the role of libraries in the age of e-resources will increase tremendously, particularly in providing training and guidance to use authentic and relevant information. The libraries are and will develop necessary tools to provide such services to their users satisfactorily. The study reveals that the faculty members of CVRCE, Bhubaneswar, are using the available e-resources satisfactorily. At the same time the Central Library of CVRCE is playing an important role in promotion, assistance and guidance in accessing the e-resources. Still there is enough scope for Central Library to develop its infrastructural facilities for accessing e-resources, procurement of more e-resources as per requirement, motivating users for accessing open source e-resources, etc.

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