

Use of E-resources by Undergraduate Students of NTR College of Veterinary Science, Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The paper aims to assess and evaluate the exposure of ICT and the use of e-resources by the student of NTR College of Veterinary Science, Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Gannavaram, Andhra Pradesh with a view to know the exposure of ICT and e-resources to the student at their department or library. Besides, it aims to highlight the problems encountered by the students and suggests some remedial measures for its improvement. The author investigated the use of e-resources through a survey based on a structured questionnaire. The study confirmed that students of Veterinary Sciences are aware of the e-resources and use 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 of more e-resources for the students.

Keywords: Information communication technology, ICT, e-resources, e-journal, internet, veterinary science

1. INTRODUCTION

The NTR College of Veterinary Science, Gannavaram, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh is the constituent college of Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University established on 1st January, 2008 with the aim to strengthen education and research in the field of Veterinary Science in the state.

The rapid advancements in 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, e-resources have become the most sought after modern library's reserves in satisfying varied needs of students, teachers, and researchers with minimum effort and time. Information technology has changed the world and has become one of the important tools for retrieving information. The e-information resources occupied a major portion of library collections. The value and use of information resources, particularly e-resources, have increased with the time. Therefore, there was necessity to conduct study on the different aspects of e-resources and the issues relating to the use of e-resources

by students, more particularly by the students of academic and research universities. The present study is aimed to analyse the use of e-resources by the students of NTR College of Veterinary Science (NTRCVS). The study is purposefully conducted for the improvement of library services in Veterinary Science subject.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Various studies have been carried out regarding to the exposure of computers and e-resources to the students, research scholars and teachers of various institutions and universities. Swain & Panda¹ in their study observed that faculty members prefer using e-articles, e-thesis and dissertation over to their printed counterparts.

The Internet, e-mail, and e-resources are utilised by various organisations in India. The usage and usability of e-journal is studied by Satpathy & Rout², reveals that faculty members are aware of the e-resources.

The online access to full-text journals in the area of agriculture and veterinary sciences are being provided to the students, researchers, and teachers by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)

in all the Agriculture and Veterinary Universities through Consortium for e-resources in Agriculture³ (CERA) under the World Bank aided NAIP project. The access of this website is IP authenticated and available to all the Agriculture and Veterinary Universities and ICAR Institutes of India. Other e-services i.e., union catalogue of NARS libraries (Agricat), database of full-text e-Thesis of NARS (Krishi Prabha), e-Granth (Digitised institutional repository), and Agroweb, etc., are under pipeline.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are to:

- Expose the use of ICT in the area of Veterinary Science research and education.
- Identify use and purpose of internet services in libraries.
- Explore the use of e-resources by the students of NTRCVS.
- Examine the attitude of the students of the university towards use of e-resources.
- Find out effective usage of e-resources in Veterinary Science.
- Suggest measures for the improvement in existing library e-resources of Veterinary Science Universities.

4. METHODOLOGY

This study is based on survey method and questionnaire tool. A structured questionnaire was designed to collect data from the students of NTR College Veterinary Science, keeping in mind the basic objectives of the study. The data was collected from the visiting students during the educational tour of National Library of Veterinary Sciences, IVRI, Izatnagar during 2012.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

44 (86.3 %) questionnaires out of 51 students visited the National Library of Veterinary Sciences, Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) (Deemed University) were received back. The data collected through the questionnaires was scrutinised, classified, and tabulated for better understanding and clarity. The data was analysed and tabulated by using suitable statistical methods.

5.1 Student Data

Out of 44 students, 33 (75 %) were male and 11 (25 %) are female. It shows that more male members' were using the library services than females.

5.2 Computer Knowledge of Veterinary Students

In present computer era, functional knowledge of computer has become necessity for all the

students for their study. Keeping this fact in view, the present study makes an effort to ascertain the knowledge of computers among the students of veterinary science colleges.

The study shows that all the students were having basic functional knowledge of computer, which is a good sign for any organisation. The study found that the students are having 'good knowledge' of computers as shown in Table 1. This shows that NTR College of Veterinary Science, is providing adequate computer training to the students to use all the existing e-resources.

Table 1. Extent of computer knowledge

Extent	No. of students (%)
Excellent	0
Very good	6 (13.6 %)
Good	30 (68.2 %)
Fair	7 (15.9 %)
Satisfactory	1 (2.3 %)
Total	44 (100 %)

5.3 INTERNET USAGE

Nowaday's internet has become an important tool for education, research, and teaching. The information related to all the fields is available on internet, which is very useful for users to enrich their knowledge. The present study makes an effort to ascertain the use of internet, frequency, purpose, and place of internet use.

Table 2 indicates that frequency of internet use by the students. Majority of the students, i.e., 20 (45.5 %) use internet weekly, 40.9 % of students use internet daily, 4.5 % students use internet on fortnightly basis, a small percentage 2.3 % student use internet once in month, while remaining 6.8 % students use internet as and when required.

Table 2. Frequency of internet usage

Internet usage	No. of users (%)
Daily	18 (40.9 %)
Weekly	20 (45.5 %)
Fortnightly	2 (4.5 %)
Monthly	1 (2.3 %)
As & when required	3 (6.8 %)
Total	44 (100 %)

Table 3 shows that one third of students i.e., 27 (37 %) used internet for 'e-mail', and about one fourth 19 (26 %) used for 'Chatting' and 'Downloading', a tenth (11 %) students used for 'Entertainment', but no one used internet for 'Research' which is unfortunate, because the basic purpose of setting up of internet is not fulfilled.

Table 4 shows that; majority 66.7 % of students use internet in their department, 14 (27.5 %) use

Table 3. Purpose of using internet

Purpose of internet use	No. of responses (%)
E-mail	27 (37 %)
Chatting	19 (26 %)
Research	0
Downloading	19 (26 %)
Entertainment	8 (11 %)
Total	73

Table 4. Place for internet use

Place of internet use	No. of response (%)
Home	14 (27.5 %)
Department	34 (66.7 %)
Cyber Café	2 (3.9 %)
Any Other Place	1 (1.9 %)
Total	51 (100 %)

internet at 'Home', 3.9 % use at 'Cyber Cafe' and 1.9 % response use for internet 'Other Place'.

5.4 Awareness of E-resources

Table 5 shows the level of awareness of e-resources amongst the students. More than one third i.e. 38.8 % of students were aware about OPAC services, the students who were aware of e-thesis portal for their study were 26.5 %, 28.4 % students have awareness of Science Direct Consortium for Veterinary Sciences online full-text journals and only 14.5 % have awareness of CeRA (Consortium for e-resources in Agriculture).

Table 5. Awareness of e-resources

E-resource	No. of response (%)
Krishi Prabha (e-Thesis) Portal	13 (26.5 %)
CeRA	7 (14.2 %)
Science Direct	10 (20.4 %)
OPAC	19 (38.8 %)
Total	49 (100 %)

The information source for availability of e-resources was also collected from students. Table 6 shows that 22 (64.71 %) responses got information regarding e-resources from college library notice board/ circular, 8 (23.53 %) got information from library staff, 3 (8.82 %) responses got information from office circular, 1 (2.94 %) response got information from

Table 6. Source of information for e-resources

E-resource	No. of response (%)
Krishi Prabha (e-Thesis) Portal	13 (26.5 %)
CeRA	7 (14.2 %)
Science Direct	10 (20.4 %)
OPAC	19 (38.8 %)
Total	49 (100 %)

other sources and none of student got information from college website.

Table 7 shows that the students of NTRCVS used all the e-resources for their education. It shows that 39.2 % respondents were using e-journal, 50 % respondents using e-databases, 5.4 % respondents equally using e-article and e-book. None of the students were using e-thesis and other e-resources.

Table 7. Frequency of e-resources use

E-resources	No. of response (%)
e-database	22 (39.28 %)
e-journal	28 (50 %)
e-article	3 (5.36 %)
e-books	3 (5.36 %)
e-thesis/dissertation	0
All e-resources	0
Total	56 (100 %)

Analysis of e-resources data utilised by the students of NTRCVS shows that 88.9 % of respondents accessed for study purpose. A small percentage 4.4 % of respondents used for 'e-resources' and 'research and seminar/workshop' purpose equally while 2.3 % of respondents for 'teaching' (Table 8).

Table 8. Purpose of using e-resources

Purpose of e-resources use	No. of response (%)
Study	40 (88.9 %)
Teaching	1 (2.3 %)
Research	2 (4.4 %)
Paper publication	0
Seminar/workshop presentation	2 (4.4 %)
All above	0
Total	45 (100 %)

5.5 Awareness of Copyright and IPR Issues

Copyright and Intellectual Property Right (IPR) are two core legal issues related to any arbitrary and indiscriminate use of both print and e-document. The users should have the knowledge of copyright and IPR while using the e-resources. Realising its importance, the present study collected data and analysed the same also. It is found that the majority (75.61 %) of students do not have knowledge regarding the 'Copyright and IPR issues' which is quite surprising.

5.6 Criteria for Selection and Use of E-resources

Table 9 reveals the criteria for selection and use of e-resources. The majority 70 % of the respondents know the 'usability' of e-resources and 20 % of the respondents feels that e-resources are 'reliable'. Further, 10 % respondents opt for

'authenticity' and none of those given the option for 'objectivity' and any 'other criteria'.

Table 9. Criteria for selecting and using e-resource

Criteria for using e-resources	No. of response (%)
Reliability	6 (20%)
Currency	0
Authenticity	3 (10 %)
Usability	21 (7 %)
Objectivity	0
Any other	0
Total	30 (100 %)

5.7 Reasons for Dissatisfaction on Available E-resources

The reason for dissatisfaction on available e-resources at NTRCVS was also investigated and presented in Table 10. The study shows that the main reason of dissatisfaction on the available e-resources. The majority 52.4 % of the students feels that the e-resources were not as per their needs, further 42.8 % of students feels that the infrastructure was not sufficient i.e., internet speed, less nodes for internet etc., while 4.8 % of the responses noted that the timing of library 'not suitable'.

Table 10. Reasons for dissatisfaction on available e-resources

Reasons of dissatisfaction	No. of response (%)
Infrastructure was not good	18 (42.8 %)
E-resources were not as per need	22 (52.38 %)
Library time not suitable	2 (4.8 %)
Library staffs were not cooperative	0
Any other reasons	0
Total	42 (100 %)

5.8 Usefulness of E-resources

The study shows that the majority of students 2 (68.5 %) think it is useful upto 'small extent'. 11 (28.9 %) students say it is useful upto 'great extents' and rest 1 (2.6 %) student says 'not at all useful' (Table 11).

Table 11. Usefulness of e-resources v/s print resources

Extent	No. of users (%)
Great extent	11 (28.9 %)
Small extent	26 (68.5 %)
Not at all useful	1 (2.6 %)
Total	38 (100 %)

5.9 Search Strategy of E-resources

The opinion of 32 (64 %) responses was for easy accessibility of e-resources. Opinion of 15 (30 %) responses was for easily downloadable facility for e-resources, 2 (4 %) responses was for archival facility for e-resources and 1 (2 %) response was for simultaneous usage of both (Table 12).

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Table 12. Advantages of accessing e-resources

Advantages	No. of response (%)
Availability of the journal much before the print copy	0
Simultaneous usage	1 (2 %)
Easy accessibility	32(64 %)
Downloading facility	15 (30 %)
Author can be contacted directly through e-mail	0
Archival facility	(4 %)
Total	50 (100 %)

5.10 User Satisfaction with E-resources

The user satisfaction with e-resources was also studied. The study shows that 35 (85.4 %) students were partially satisfied with the service, further 4 (9.7 %) were fully satisfied, 2 (4.9 %) students were less satisfied and none of student opted for 'not satisfied' for the e-service (Table 13).

Table 13. Satisfaction with e-resource

Extent	No. of response (%)
Full satisfied	4 (9.7 %)
Partially satisfied	35 (85.4 %)
Less satisfied	2 (4.9 %)
Not satisfied	0
Total	41 (100 %)

5.11 Users Visit to the Library for Services

The frequency of students visiting library of its services was also measured. We can see here that 26 (60.47 %) students visited library daily. This is a good sign for the library services. Further the 15 (34.88 %) students used library services on weekly basis and 2 (4.65 %) students visited the library on fortnightly basis (Table 14).

Table 14. Frequency of library visits

Library visits	No. of response (%)
Daily	26 (60.5 %)
Weekly	15 (34.8 %)
Fortnightly	2 (4.7 %)
Monthly	0
Total	43 (100 %)

6. CONCLUSIONS

It is clear from the finding that the students of NTR College of Veterinary Science appreciate the services provided by the library but at the same time they expect more than that. Most of the

students visited the library daily. Which is a positive sign but some of the student visited and used the services on weekly and fortnightly basis because of their busy schedule or other related works. Most of the users feels that e-resources provided by the library to the great extent fulfill their requirements. More databases in veterinary science should be added to the CeRA. The online resources are the need of the library to meet out the requirements of target groups. There is a need to train the staffs of library. In this connection the authority has to make a systematic training program for library staff from time to time. The student orientation program's are also to be incorporated in the regular activity of the library. The attitude of the students seems very positive towards e-resources for their education and research. Libraries have to play a role as gateway of e-resources and to provide assistance in accessing these resources. The students are mainly dependents on e-resources for their required information and to keep up-to-date in their subject area. More numbers of computers should be

increased in the library for accessing e-resources and using other e-services. The study reveals that the students of NTR College of Veterinary Science are using the available e-resources satisfactorily. Still there is enough scope for the library to develop its infrastructural facilities for providing the services and procurement of more e-resources particularly in the field of Veterinary Science.

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