

Use of Electronic Services by Students in Medical Institutions Libraries of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

The medical institution library plays a vital role in providing information of services and sources to fulfill the users in their educational activities. Electronic libraries is a manifestation of changes in the information media which will not be a thing of distant future, but we start gaining ground in India on the present century 600 questionnaires were self administered by the researcher at the libraries of the four medical colleges under study. After continuous follow up with the respondents, 478 filled-in questionnaires were received back. Out of 600 questionnaires collected, 478 were deemed usable ones making a moderate response rate of 79.66% which was found adequate for the analysis.

KEYWORDS: Medical Institution Library, Electronic Resources, Computer Literacy.

1. INTRODUCTION

The medical institution library plays a vital role in providing information of services and sources to fulfill the users in their educational activities. Electronic libraries is a manifestation of changes in the information media which will not be a thing of distant future, but we start gaining ground in India on the present century. Therefore it is not hyperbolic to say that we are heading towards a digital environment in which electronic information substitutes to a large extent. The print based information in this paper is developed in the premises that of a library which is an organization with a mission to provide a link between the past and present and the future. This mission of libraries is likely to change in the near future. The focus of libraries should be of acquisition, organization and dissemination of knowledge and information rather than the medium. With digitization of knowledge and information it has become highly diluted and complex both have become fluid and separated from the container. As such, there is every likelihood of change in the role and status of traditional libraries. With the advent of electronic technology, the possibility of horizontal and vertical integration of knowledge the information has increased significantly.

The library plays a leading role in student's library relationships and in instructional services such as orientation and acclimatising in use of library resources. By making efficient and effective usage of library is e-resources. The user will have good quantum of intensity and coverage. It is important to remember that the ability of library staff to keep updated is necessary.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of this study are:

- ✓ To know the awareness of Electronic Information resources in medical college libraries.
- ✓ To know the Frequency of use of Electronic resources by students.
- ✓ To identify the constants faced by the students in using electronic information.
- ✓ To identify the orientation and training needed by the students utilize E-resources effectively.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Shivaraja O and S. Padmamma (2020) studied a survey of 130 faculty members that was conducted through a questionnaire. The analysis of the collected data covers the purpose and frequency of use and place of accessing their favorite e-resources by faculty members and the preferences of web browsers used in searching for information. Further, to explore the problems in accessing e-resources as well as satisfaction level by the faculty members.

S.R. Mandale (2019) explored for electronic resources access and use for users variations among institutions in accessing electronic resources. Libraries are changing with time from mere storehouses of collection of documents to dynamic service centers. The present period is a period of digital libraries, electronic libraries and virtual libraries. All these changes demand development of modern skills to both library professionals as well as users. Dharmender Singh et al (2020) to highlight the problems encountered by the users and suggest some remedial measures for its improvement. A structured questionnaire was distributed among Full time and part time Post- Graduate Students, Post Graduate responded to this survey. The study confirmed that the Post Graduate Students are aware of the e-resources and various types of e-resources, e-databases and e-journals. It suggests for the improvement in the Awareness facilities and most particularly increases the web resources to support their research activities

Mallikarjuna and Padmamma.S(2020) The E- resources are playing a major role in enhancing the knowledge of users across the globe. In this view an attempt has been made in this article to review the existing literature on the awareness about e- resources, use of internet, and e- services by the faculty members of various college libraries and further literature review also covers on the users search strategy and preferred search engines while searching information through online.

4. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

4.1 Sample and Response Rate

The research population of the study was 600 users, comprising, postgraduate students and final year undergraduate students of nine medical colleges in Shivamogga and Davanagere. The sample of 478 (79.66%) respondents, comprising of students from an entire population of 600 respondents of the medical colleges in Shivamogga and Davanagere were selected for the study on the basis of statistical formula Out of 600 questionnaires collected, 478 were deemed usable ones making a moderate response rate of 79.66% which was found adequate for the analysis. The distribution of questionnaires and response rate according to the professional status, College wise of the respondents are given in Tables .1 and figure.1 respectively.

Table-1 Sample and response rate by professional status

Sl. No	Professional status	Questionnaires distributed	Questionnaires received	Percentage of Responses
1	P.G students	65	49	73.38
2	U.G final year students	535	429	80.18
	Total	600	478	79.66

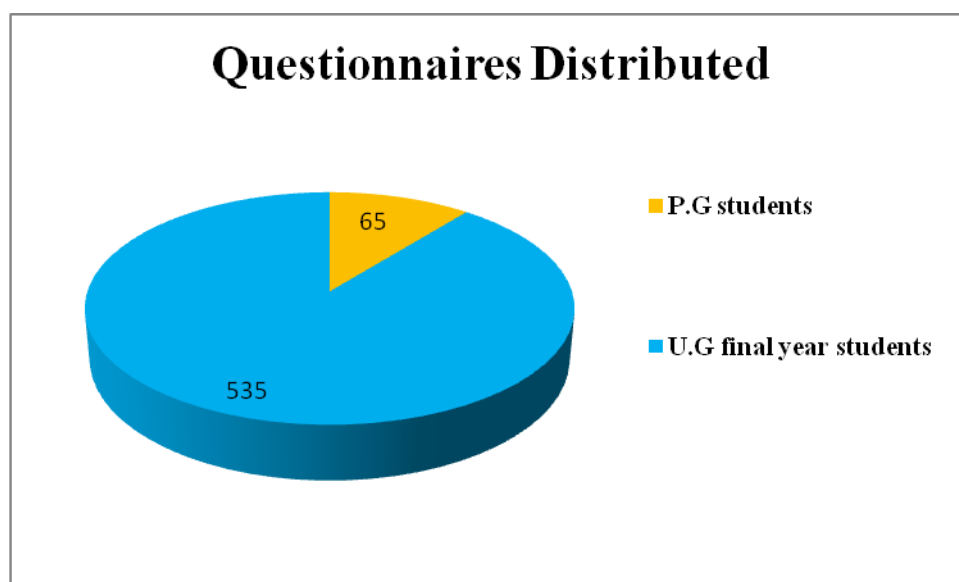


Fig-1 Sample and response rate by professional status

Table 1 reveals that the highest response to the survey was from UG final year students (80.18%), followed by the P.G students (73.38%).

4.2. Level of Computer Literacy

Computer literacy of respondents according to their positions shows 28.57% of PG students and 29.90% of UG final year students were having average skills in the use of computers. 22.44% PG students and 25.40% of UG final year students were having good computer skills in its use. 18.36% PG students and 21.44% UG final year students were very good at using computers. It is seen that 14.28% PG students and 16.78% of UG final year students were excellent in the use of computers (fig.2).

Table 2 Level of computer literacy

Computer literacy	PG students (n=49)	UG Final Year students (n=429)	Total (651)
Excellent	7 (14.28)	72 (16.78)	108 (16.58)
Very Good	9 (18.36)	92 (21.44)	136 (20.89)
Good	10 (22.44)	109 (25.40)	160 (24.57)

Average	14 (28.57)	124 (29.90)	196 (30.10)
Poor	9 (18.36)	32 (7.45)	51 (7.83)

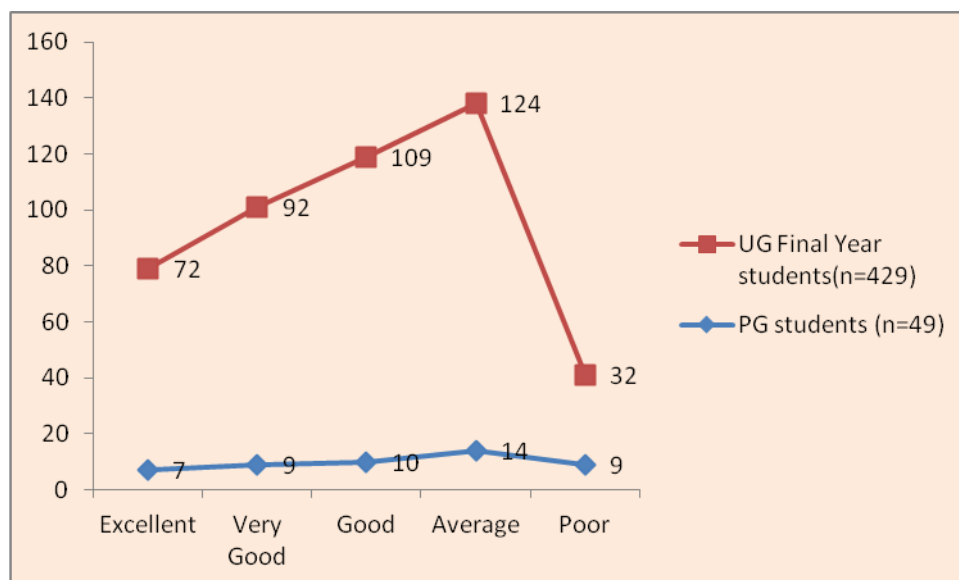


Fig. 2 Level of computer literacy category wise

This implies that computer literacy is independent of position wise status of respondents, which shows no significant difference between the various categories of respondents. Therefore it can be concluded that medical students with better computing skills use the electronic services more frequently and thus gain more information from using them.

4.3 Position wise status of respondents

Position status-wise experience in electronic services use is given in Table-5.6. Among PG students, 48.97% had experience of more than 5 years, and 33.34% of UG final year students. 48.49% of final year students, and 26.53% of PG students were using ES between 3 to 5 years. 16.32% PG students and 04.26% UG final year students started using the ES in 1 to 2 years. 8.16% of PG students and 3.96% UG final year students started using ES in 'less than a year'.

Table-3 Experience in the use of Electronic Sources by Position status-wise of respondents

Experience	Position	
	PG students	UG final year students
More than 5 years	24 (48.97)	143 (33.34)
Between 3 to 5 years	13 (26.53)	208 (48.49)

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Between 1 to 2 years	8 (16.32))	61 (04.26)
Less than one year	4 (08.16)	17 (03.96)
Total	49	429

Majority of the faculty members and PG students showed experience of using ES for more than five years. Most of the PG students (48.49%) showed experience of using ES for more than 3 years. Majority of UG final year students (33.34%) have experience in using ES more than 5 year (Fig.3).

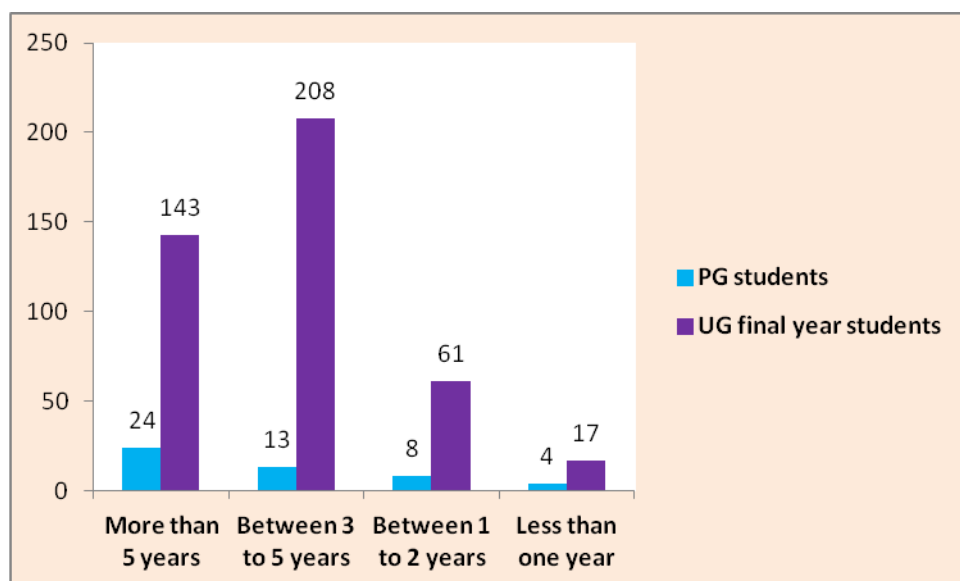


Fig. 3 Experience in the use of ES by Position status-wise

The dependency of the experience in the use of ES on the position wise status of the respondents was tested using indicates that there is significant difference between various categories of respondents. Hence it implies that experience in ES usage is dependent on the position wise status of respondents.

4.4. Classification of respondents by position wise status

The different locations at which the respondents have access to the computer for ES use by position wise status are presented in Table 4.8. It is seen that 58.75% of UG final year students, 31.51% of PG students access electronic information sources in the college/institution library. This indicates that few respondents have access for ES from the library, since some college libraries have limited computer terminals. About 55.36 % of undergraduate final year students, and 43.03% of postgraduate students are accessing ES from institution computer centers. In most of the colleges access to computers is provided at the computer centers for the students, hence it is seen that majority of UG final year students use this location for EIS access. A large majority of 55.75% of PG students, while 23.16% of UG final year students also access ES from the same location. 61.81% of PG students and 66.1% of UG final year students access ES from Internet cafes, this finding indicates that the majority of UG final year students 66.1% access ES from Internet cafes as compared to PG students. About 5.45% of PG students and 6.77% of UG final year students access ES from other places. Other places mainly here are referred to respondents' homes.

Table- 4 Location of computer use for ES by position wise status of the respondents

Location	Total		
	PG students	UG final year students	Total
Library	52 (31.51%)	104 (58.75%)	188
Computer lab on campus	71 (43.03%)	98 (55.36%)	220
Office/Department	92 (55.75%)	41 (23.16%)	211
Internet cafe	102 (61.81%)	117 (66.1%)	233
Other places	9 (5.45%)	12 (6.77%)	28

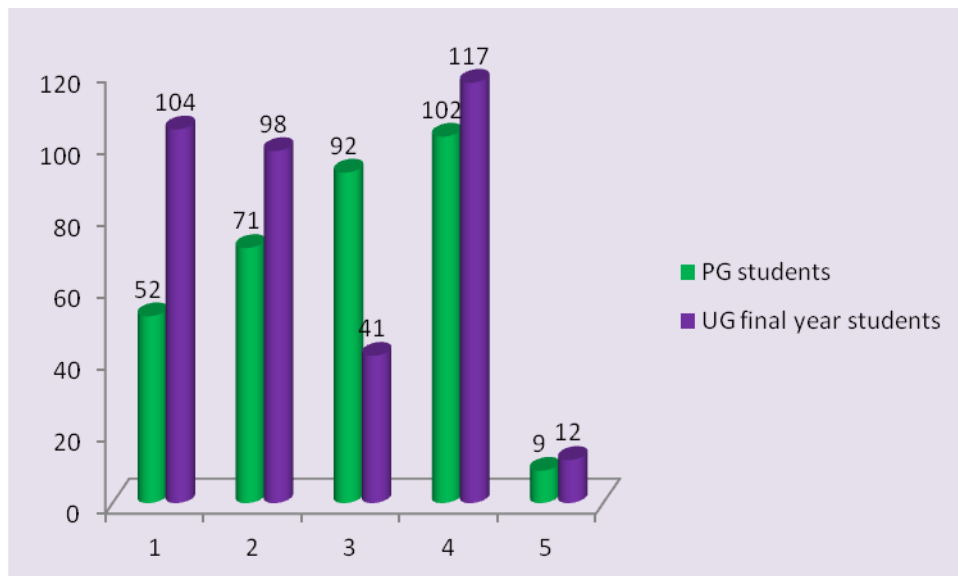


Fig. 4 Location of computer use for ES by position wise status of the respondents

The dependency of the location of computer use for accessing ES on the position wise status of the respondents was tested using, which indicates there is significant difference between the various categories of respondents. It implies that the location of access to the computer for ES use depends on the position wise status of respondents.

5. MAJOR FINDINGS

1. Out of 600 questionnaires collected, 478 were deemed usable ones making a moderate response rate of 79.66% which was found adequate for the analysis.
2. The highest response to the survey was from UG Final Year students (80.18%), followed by the P.G students (73.38%).
3. The response rate from individual institutions ranged from 31.43% to 86.22%, accounting for the average response rate of the sample to be 77.96%
4. It is seen that 14.28% PG students and 16.78% of UG final year students were excellent in the use of computers (fig.2)

5. This implies that computer literacy is independent of position wise status of respondents, which shows no significant difference between the various categories of respondents. Therefore it can be concluded that medical faculty members and students with better computing skills use the ES more frequently and thus gain more information from using them.

6. 48.97% respondents have been using ES for more than five years and 208(48.49%) respondents have 3-5 years of experience in using ES. The table depicts that only 16.32% of the respondents started using the ES in 1-2 years and very few respondents 3.96% have less than a year of experience (fig.3).

CONCLUSION

The medical science students of the contemporary era need efficient and effective access to information as and when new techniques are developed World over. ICT has revolutionized the information related activities globally. The creation, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information have been tremendously enhanced because of recent developments in information communication technology. The Internet and especially the WWW and developments such as the CD-ROM databases, electronic journals, etc have turned Electronic Sources into major information sources. The origin of the electronic information and communication environment has provided the medical community of the medical institutions with wide opportunities to satisfy their information needs. The present study is an effort to understand the pattern of use of electronic information sources by the students. We understand that the Medical college libraries are switching over to electronic resources at an accelerated pace. Printed sources are supplemented by electronic databases, E-journals and a variety of other mediums.

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