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Digital library facilities and its usefulness to faculty of engineering colleges in Nagpur: A study

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Abstract

In this paper researcher share the study of the use of digital resources by faculty members available in the engineering college libraries. The sample units were the so faculty members of the ten engineering colleges in Nagpur. The primary data was collected and the findings suggest that most of the faculty members are familiar with the usage of digital resources, using CD-ROM Internet, E-mail, search engines and college website daily.

The objective of this study is to present the state of the digital library education in academic institutions.

Keywords: Engineering college, digital library, faculty members, ICT.

Introduction

Today, information technologies that are increasingly power full and easy to use especially those that support the World Wide Web, have unleashed the production and distribution of digital information.

Digital library is a term and concept that serves as an umbrella for a great many of diverse activities libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent year both in their collection development and in their service structure. Print medium is increasingly giving way to the electronic form of materials. This study examines libraries by region within the state of Maharashtra India. It examines the level of effort taken by engineering college libraries in Maharashtra to build electronic resources. The availability of CD-ROM, DVD-ROM and other online resources of bibliographical and full text database and quite common in the majority of the libraries under examination. Some of the important full text digital collections available in CD-ROM include ADONIS; IEEE/IEE electronic library (IEL) CD-ROM networking technology is now available for providing web-based access to CD-ROM databases on the Local Area Network (LAN) as well as on wide Area Network (WAN).

Objectives of the study

Primary objective has been to probate a research-oriented attitude in students and to help the faculty members in their research activities.

The goals are

- Access to various CDS shared on the set up.
- Enable the users take the hard copy or soft copy back-ups of papers/articles.
- Access to net based libraries and e-books.

The objectives of the present study are

- To find out the challenges faced by faculty members in accessing the digital information.
- To find out the availability of digital library facilities in selected engineering colleges in Nagpur.
- To study the use of digital library facilities by faculty members in engineering colleges in Nagpur.

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Research methodology

Keeping in view the objective in mind a questionnaire is prepared to collect data from the faculty members of the following engineering colleges in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

The research has been conducted for the period of 6months there are more than 150 faculty members working in each of these colleges copies of questionnaire were distributed to 120 faculty members received fulfilled questionnaire 80 faculty members.

Then collected data was analyzed and interpreted as follows.

Data analysis and interpretation

1. Faculty Members familiarity with digital sources.

The distribution of students according to their familiarity to use digital resources in shown in table-1.

Table 1: Faculty Members familiarity with Digital Resources.

S. No.	Use	No. of responses	%
1	Familiar	55	68.75%
2	Not familiar	25	31.25%
Total		80	100%

Table – 1 indicate that (55) 68.75% of the faculty members are familiar with digital resources while (25) 31.25% percent replied in the negative.

Table 3: Purpose of using the digital resources

S. No.	Purpose	No. of responses	%
1.	For communication	22	27.50
2.	For collect subject information	20	25.00
3.	For research	18	22.50
4.	For career development	07	08.75
5.	Upgrade general knowledge	13	16.25
Total		80	100%

Table -3 indicates that 22 (27.50) of the faculty members indicate that the digital resources are used for communication purpose, 20(25%) to collect subject information, 18 (22.50%) research purpose, 07(08.75%) of the faculty member are using career Development & 13

2. Frequency of using the computer

The distribution of faculty members according to their frequency of using the computers as shown in following table no 2.

Table 2: Faculty Members usage frequency of computer.

S. No.	Frequency	No. of responses	%
1.	Daily	25	31.25
2.	2 or 3 times a week	20	25.00
3.	Once a week	18	22.50
4.	Once in month	07	08.75
5.	Rarely	07	08.75
	Never	03	03.75
Total		80	100%

It is evident from table no 2 that about 31.25% faculty members are using the computer daily. 25% two or three times week, 22.50% once a week, 08.75% once a month, 08.75% Rarely and remaining 3.75% of faculty members never using the computer.

3. Purpose of using the digital resources

The distribution of faculty members according to purpose of using digital resources is shown in table – 3.

(16.25%) of the faculty member are using digital resources for upgrade their general knowledge.

4. Learned to use digital resources

The distribution of faculty members learned to use digital resources is shown in table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of faculty members according to the learned to use digital resources.

S. No.	Learned to use digital resources	No. of responses	%
1.	Self-study (Reading book, journals, tutorials)	31	38.75
2.	Family, friend or colleague	17	21.25
3.	Guidance from the library staff	20	25.00
4.	Guidance from the departmental staff of computer science	07	08.75
5.	Formal courses	05	06.25
Total		80	100%

It is evident from table 4 that 31 (38.75%) of the faculty members are learning the necessary skills to use digital resources through self-study (Reading Books/Journals, tutorials, etc.) 20(25%) learned through the guidance from library staff, 17(21.25%) through family friend or college, of (8.75%) guidance from the departmental staff of computer science, and 05 (6.25%) of the faculty members

area learning to use digital resources through formal courses.

5. Frequency of using digital resources

The distribution of faculty members according to their frequency of using the digital resources is shown in table – 5

Table 5: Faculty member’s usage frequency of digital resources.

Digital resources	Frequency (%)					
	Daily	2 or 3 times in a week	Once in a week	Once in a month	Rarely	Never
Internet	22 (27.39)	21(25.23)	15(2.75)	14(17.50)	05(6.25)	03(3.75)
e-mail online database	25(31.25)	15(18.75)	07(8.75)	20(25.00)	07(8.75)	06(7.35)

Online journal	21 (26.25)	24(30.00)	15(18.75)	10(12.5)	05(6.25)	05(6.25)
CD-ROM database	15(18.75)	10(12.5)	25(31.25)	24(30.00)	03(3.75)	03(3.75)
Search engines	25(31.25)	15(18.75)	20(25.00)	10(12.5)	05(6.25)	05(6.25)
Opac	20(25.00)	12(15.00)	15(18.75)	03(13.75)	30(3.75)	03(3.75)
College website	31(38.75)	12(15.00)	10(12.54)	17(21.25)	07(8.75)	03(3.75)

It is evident from table 5 that 22 (27.39) of faculty members are using Internet daily and 2to3 times a week, 25 (31.25%) are using E-mail & on- line Database followed by 07 (8.75%) once in a week, 25 (31.25%) of faculty used email daily followed by 2 or 3 times a week, also 21(26%) faculty members use online databases once in a month while 20 (25) and 25% of the faculty member use OPAC daily and 15(18.75%) used once in week 31(38.75%) of the faculty members use college websites daily followed by 17(21.25%) once in a month & 03 (3.75%) faculty members replayed Never used college website.

6. Prevents in accessing the digital resources

The distribution of faculty members according to prevents in accessing the digital resources is shown in table on 6.

Table 6: Distribution of faculty members according to the prevents in accessing the digital resources

S. No.	Prevents	No. of responses	%
1.	Lack of training	17	21.25
2.	Lack of time	28	35.00
3.	Too much information retrieval	20	25.00
4.	Lack of IT knowledge	05	6.25
5.	Limited accesses to computer	10	12.50
Total		120	100%

It is evident from the table – 6 shows the opinion of the faculty members regarding prevents in accessing the digital resources. Majority 28(35%) of the faculty members stated that 'Lack of time' is the main impediment to use digital resources. 17(21.25%) 'Lack of training' 20 (25%) too much information retrieved, 10 (12.50%) limited to access to computers and 5(6.25%) Lack of 'IT knowledge is the main prevent to use digital resources.

Major findings

Majority of the faculty members are familiar with the usage of digital resources.

- Most of faculties are using the computer two or three times a week, daily and few are never used.
- Most of the faculty member area using Internet, CD-ROM, e-mail, OPAC, search engines, college website, 'daily & 2 to 3 days. However some of faculty members are using on- line databases, while others are using on line databases, while others one using resources 'rarely' respectively.
- Majority of the faculty members owned that they were acquiring skills to use digital resources through 'self study' method (reading books journals factories etc)
- Most of the faculty members opined that the information available in the digital resources is always 'adequate'
- Majority of the faculties have expressed lack of training and 'lack of time' are the main problems in securing uses to digital resources.

Suggestions

The following suggestions are made to improve the use of digital resources in the college.

- The college should create more awareness, levels towards continuous usage of online journals for enhancing the knowledge base of the faculty members and students.
- College should allocate more funds towards digitalization of library and should subscribe more online journals.
- The library must facilities the conducts of evaluations and assessments at regular intervals by college staff and students for bringing changes in the digital resources.

Conclusion

Digital information is and will be treated differently than paper based information. It is likely that in the near future, the terms of accessibility and the condition of management and collection of electronic information will not be determined by the library profession. The day is not far off to visualize all Indian libraries with huge digital collection and the latest technology to access the same. Digital resource are affecting collection development and management policies and are drawing attention to two areas that have been neglected for too long in Indian libraries, namely how do libraries change to meet the new. Searching habits of users an internet and how do library management react to changing information needs to users.

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