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Use of E-Resources by The Teaching Staff of Engineering Colleges in West Godavari District, AP. A Survey

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Abstract: ***Utility of e-resources in the present era of Information Technology in a topic for study, because it support teaching learning and research activities of the present user community particularly faculty members. Enormous amount of money is needed for subscribing to e-resources. The purpose of this study is to find out the awareness, availability and the use of e-resources by the teaching faculty of engineering colleges in West Godavari. District. AP. It also look into the barriers, the users are facing while using the e-resources and their level of satisfaction. A survey was conducted among the teaching staff members of 12 selected engineering colleges in West Godavari District. AP out of 225 questionnaires distributed, 160 responses were received back. The findings shows that the generality of teaching staff members are thoroughly aware about the e-resources and most of them are using e-resources at least once in a week. Majority of the teaching members using desktop computers for accessing the e-resources. Maximum engineering colleges provide e-resources facility availability is good. Majority of the teaching staff members are using desktop computer for accessing the e-resources and the main purpose of using them is for teaching. The study also reveals that all most faculty members are satisfied with the facilities available for accessing e-resources.***

Keywords: Engineering College Library - E-resources – Teaching Staff members –Usage -Interne

I. INTODUCTION

In the last 25 years, the higher education has made fabulous growth, providing quality education in India. Computers and related E-resources have come to play a vital role in Indian education System E-resources information are becoming moreover important and useful for the academic level. University faculty and students are a unique population and rely on recent and timely information. E-resources are present utilize more often than print media resources.

Most of their academic related works. But it is not just students who find E-resources valuable. Faculty benefit from these resources as well by employing a series of useful tools. Electronic learning material classes more effective, faculty more compelling, informative, and varied, reading assignments more extensive, interesting, and accessible, discussions more free ranging and challenging. There is a fabulous need to study the use of e-resources and investigate the level of satisfaction among the academics in order to redefine the collection and services provided by academic libraries and to improve the technological platforms that make these electronic contents available to users.

II. E-RESOURCES

There are different types of e-resources available in right now. There are a number of databases available on the networks. They are either free or with charges. Databases include images, video's audios and the text. They are E-books, E-journals, E-newspapers, E-magazines, Indexing an abstracting Databases, Full text databases, Statistical databases, Image collection, Multimedia products, e-Thesis, E-clippings, E-Patents, E-standards, CD's etc,. E-Resources enable the libraries to provide better services to the community. E-Resources can be searched quickly and stored in huge amount. Information can be found easily be the users through electronic resources. To collect store, organize information in digital form and to promote efficient delivery of information economically to all the users and encourage co-operative efforts to save and share the investments in research resources, computing and communication network. Electronic resources provide access to information that might be restricted to the user because of

Geographical location or lack of finance. Electronic resources also provide access to current information as these are often updated frequently. Through their various search techniques electronic resources provide extensive links to explore additional resources of related content. In addition, electronic resources are considered as important resources of teaching, research and training.

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III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are a number of studies related to the use of e-resources by the Teaching faculty, Students, and Research Scholars of various engineering colleges. There are many factors which affect the use of e-resources. The related studies discuss some of these issues. The present study is conducted in the light of the previous studies.

Sharma, Chawla and Madan (2011) analyzed the use of internet and related issues among teachers and students of professional colleges at Mathura region. Thanuskodi and Ravi (2011) discussed the utilization of digital resources by faculty and research scholars of M.S. University, Tirunelveli. Shuva and Akhtar (2011) studied the internet usage by the students of faculty of Arts of University library of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Dr. A. Vijayakumar and Jaison Thomas (2014) made a study which highlights the preferences and importance of online resources among teachers and research scholars. The Internet and the Web are constantly influencing the development of new modes of scholarly communication their potential for delivering goods is quite vast, as they overcome successfully the geographical limitations associated with the print media. Further, the distribution time between product publication and its delivery has been drastically reduced. The internet can be used for efficient retrieval and for meeting the information needs. Although these studies summarize conclusions about how people use Electronic resources, there are individual and library-specific differences that make it beneficial for many libraries to collect their own data.

A study by abouserie (2006) surveyed on the use of electronic journals by Library and Information Science faculty members at the school of Information Science at the University of Pittsbuirgh. The study showed a difference in the usage of various information sources, whereas

the study found variability in the sources used according to rank and gender. Also there was a variance satisfaction with electronic resources, where faculty members were most satisfied with index and abstracts and Full Text databases and electronic journals faculty members considered electronic journals highly credible, most accurate, highly responsible and most supportive and convenient to meet their needs.

Patil and Parameshwar (2009) in paper titled “Use of Electronic Resources by the Faculty Members and Research Scholars in Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. A Survey” disclosed the use of electronic resources by the faculty members and research scholars in Gulbarga University

Questionnaire was used as a data collection tool. Study revealed the need to train users in using the electronic resources.

Singh (2009) examines the search pattern of online journals among the faculty members’ research scholars and post –graduate students to collect the required data. The study reveals that the majority of users are aware about the availability of online journals. It was found that many users faced problem when using online journals and that they were interested in undergoing training on the use of online journals.

Lohar and Roopashree (2006) studied the use of electronic resources and how the electronic resources are improving the academic career of the faculty and the problems encountered in the use of the electronic resources. The study was based on faculty members only.

A. Scope Of The Study

The present Survey is limited to the faculty members of Twelve (12) selected engineering colleges in West Godavari District, AP. Started in 2000 and earlier. The study highlights the awareness and availability and use of e-resources by the faculty members ,problems faced while accessing e-resources, level of satisfaction of the users, suitable recommendations to improve facilities and services.

B. Objectives

The major objectives of the study are:

1) To examine the facilities provided for the search of e-resources in the various departments of faculty members.
2) To study the purpose and utilization of e-resources.
3) To find out the most preferred search engines and search methods used by the faculty members
4) To find out the factors those attract the use of e-resources.
5) To find out the difficulties faced by the users while accessing and using e-resources and to study the level of satisfaction of users of e-resources.
6) To suggest suitable recommendations to improve facilities and services related to the use of e-resources

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IV. METHODOLOGY

For getting the data in this field of study, methods adopted are review of related literature and questionnaire survey among the faculty members of 12 (Twelve) Engineering Colleges in west Godavari District, AP. A detailed, well-structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the Faculty members. 225 questionnaires were distributed, 160 valid filled questionnaires were collected. The data was analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in this paper using simple percentage technique.

V. DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis and interpretation of the data collected through the questionnaires distributed to the faculty members of 12(Twelve) engineering colleges in West Godavari District, AP, is given below.

Table 1: Frequency of accessing e-resources

Frequency	No of Respondandents	Percentage (%)
Daily	52	32.5
Once in two days	21	13.125
2 or 3 days in week	26	16.25
Once in a week	56	35
More than one week	05	3.125

Table -1 shows the result that maximum of the faculty members are using e-resources at least once in a week. Only very few faculty members are using e-resources occasionally.

Table-2: Purpose of Using E-resources

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Teaching	160	100
Research	89	55.625
General Information	56	35
Career Advancement	30	18.75

Table -2: shows it is observed that all the faculty members are using e-resources for teaching purposes. Apart from that faculty members are also using the e-resources for their research purpose (55.625 %), 35 % of the faculty members are using for general information, and 18.75 % for career advancement.

Table -3: Electronic Gadgets used for accessing e-resources

Electronic Gadgets	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Desktop computer	143	89.375
Laptop	79	49.375
Netbook	8	5
Tablet Computer	6	3.75
Mobile Phone	92	57.5

Table -3: shows that most of the faculty members (89.375 %) are using desktop computers for accessing e-resources. Followed by that, Laptop and Mobile phones are also used by the faculty members for the same purpose. But very few are using Netbook and Tablet computer for accessing e-resources.

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Table -4: Awareness and Availability of e-journals Packages

Publishers	Awareness about e-Journals package in %	Availability of the Packages in %	Ranking based on Usage
IEEE	100	95	1 (95%)
ASME	90	74	6 (82.2 %)
ASCE	90	72	7 (80%)
ASTM	86	71	5 (82.55 %)
ELSEVIER	94	82	4 (87.23 %)
SPRINGER-LINK	95	88	2 (92.63 %)
J-GATE	80	57	8 (71.25 %)
WILLY-BLACK WELL	40	16	9 (40 %)
McGraw Hill- AEL	86	78	3 (90.69 %)

Table -4 indicate the awareness and availability and usage of e-journal packages among the faculty members. All most all packages are well known to all faculty members and these packages are available in most of the colleges. Regarding the usage of e-resources some of the Packages are not sufficient used by the teaching community.

Table -5: Barriers in Accessing E-resources

BARRIERS	OFTEN (%)	SOMETIMES (%)	NEVER (%)
Required password not known	52	38	10
Access has been restricted to campus only	59	33	8
Virus	36	47	17
Library does not subscribe the required titles	16	57	27
Slow due to poor bandwidth	7	57	36
Don’t know how to search	2	36	62
Lack of time	20	56	24
Limited Access to computers	14	15	71
Difficult to find relevant information	8	23	69

Table-5: indicates that main barriers often faced by the faculty members while accessing e-resources are restricted access in the campus required password not known, virus problem and lack of time. Along with that sometimes poor bandwidth and lack of library subscription of the required titles also affect the user community.

Table -6: Level of satisfaction of users of e-resources

STATEMENT	SA	A	N	D	SD
The Library provides me required e-resources always	26	40	17	11	6
The Library has adequate e-resources access facilities	36	37	9	10	8

SA-Strongly Agree A-AgreeN- Neither Agree nor Disagree D-disagree
SD- Strongly Disagree.

Table-6 depicts that most of the faculty members are satisfied with the e-resources available and facilities for accessing the e-resources. But at the same time some of the faculty members find it difficult to get the required e-resources and facilities for accessing the same.

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VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

As per the findings of the study the following recommendations are made:

A. All the libraries are must conduct training programs for faculty members at regular intervals on the use of the electronic resources effectively. Display of content page of the e-journals can added to the library website home page for attracting faculty Members and thereby increasing its usage.

B. Different types of Digital library management software is needed to manage the digital documents and it will help the users to access the e-resources even from outside the campus and it also helps to solve the issues regarding the password of accessing different e-resources.

C. More funds should be allocated for subscribing to more e-resources for benefit of the user community.

D. Suggestions from the users must be asked for before purchasing the e-resources. It will help to have to collection of only relevant e-resources and increase the satisfaction level of users.

E. Latest configurations computers should be made available in the library and the departments for speedy access to e-resources by the faculty members. Along with the speedy connection should be provided for solving the issue of slow access. Few colleges are must be maintain latest anti-virus packages are also needed to protect the systems and the digital contents from computer virus.

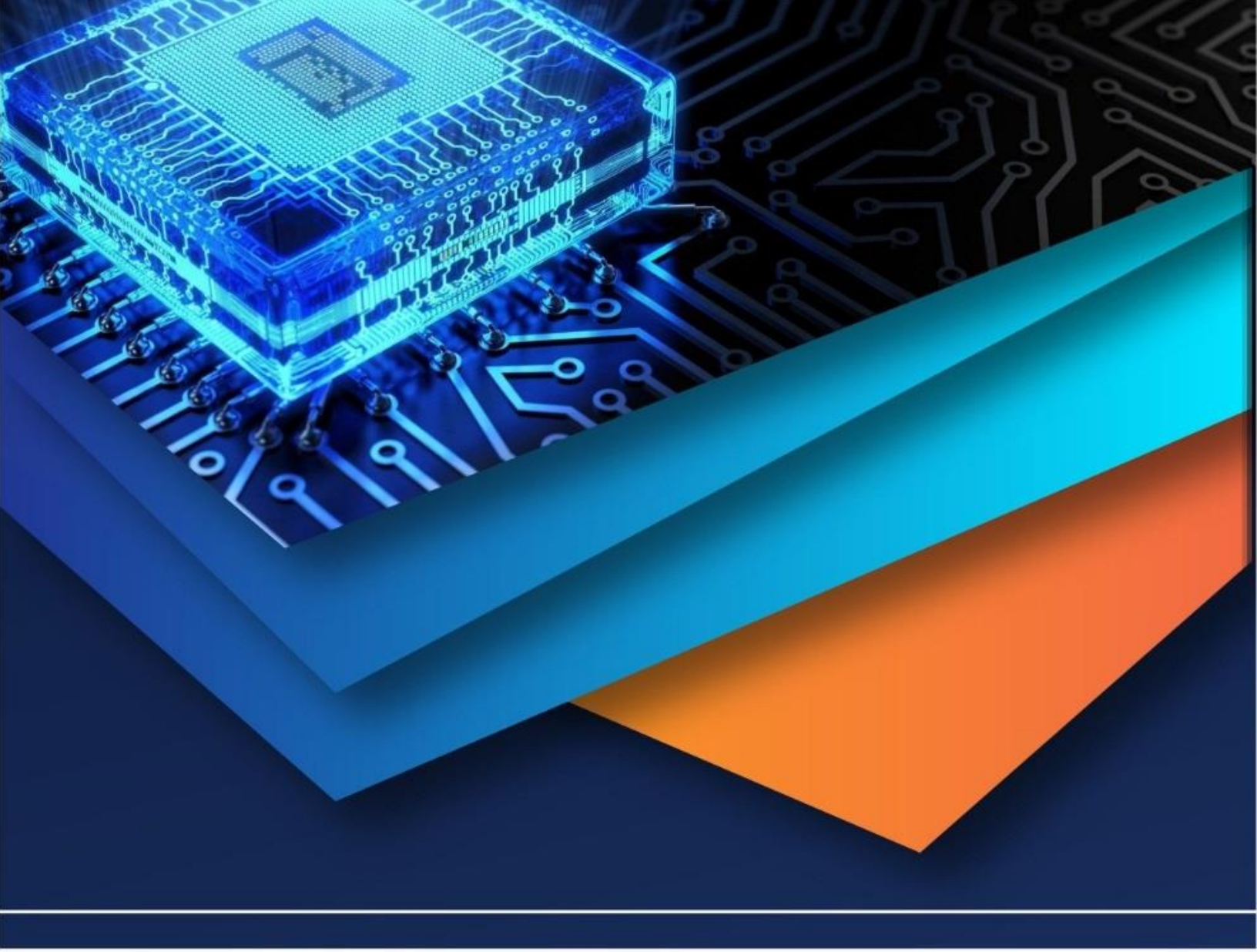
VII. CONCLUSION

This study gives knowledge, awareness and usages of electronic resources and related matters among the faculty members of engineering colleges in West Godavari District, AP. The fabulous growth of information and communication technologies, particularly internet and electronic resources has facilitated the convergence of new electronic devices and formats. It changed the traditional methods of search, storage, retrieval and communication of scholarly information. Latest Information has been embedded in a variety of ways and forms in various kinds of electronic resources. Now days faculty members are heavily dependent on e-resources for their required information and to keep themselves up-to date in their subject area. So the vital role of libraries in this age of e-resources has increased tremendously, particularly in providing training and guidance to use authentic and relevant information to the users. For this purpose libraries should develop new and necessary tools to provide better services to their user-community.

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