



## Utilisation of e-resources in college of education at Alagappa University, Karaikudi: A study

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### Abstract

The rapid growth of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has transformed the academic environment and increased the importance of electronic resources in higher education institutions. E-resources such as e-journals, e-books, online databases, institutional repositories, and digital learning platforms play a vital role in supporting teaching, learning, and research activities. This study aims to examine the utilization of e-resources among students and faculty members of Alagappa University College of Education, Alagappa University. The objectives of the study are to identify the types of e-resources used, determine the frequency and purpose of usage, analyze the level of awareness and accessibility, and identify the problems faced by users while accessing e-resources.

**Keywords:** E-Resources, ICT, databases, institutional repositories, digital learning

### Introduction

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the age of information and communication technology. A lot of developments have been witnessing in all walks of life. In library field also many changes and developments have taken place, from conventional store house of knowledge to the age of digital libraries, virtual libraries and electronic libraries. Electronic resources changing the face of the academic publishing, and grow in popularity. Electronic resources are digital collections that are meant to provide solutions to regulate and control information explosion in recent years. These resources are stored electronically and that can be accessible through electronic systems and networks. The different types of e-resources that include e-books, e-journals, CDs/DVDs, OPAC, Library websites etc. are needed for the college libraries to fulfil the academic purposes. The electronic resources play an important role in academic libraries as they are mostly tuned for the promotion of academic excellence.

### Objectives of the study

In this study focuses on assessing the awareness about electronic resources and their use among the student community. The study is made with the following objectives

1. To find out the awareness of electronic resources among students.
2. To find out awareness of different types of electronic resources
3. To assess the extent of use of website of the Library of College of education
4. To identify which e-resources are used more by the students
5. To find out for what purpose students use internet in the college of education library
6. To offer suggestions to enhance the use of electronic resources by the students

### Methodology

The following methodologies have been adopted for collecting data.

1. **Verification of records:** It included the internet use register kept in the library and the stock register of multimedia.
2. **Questionnaire:** Information based on pre-structured questionnaires was prepared keeping in mind the objective of the study. For this purpose a total 98 questionnaires were distributed among college of education students. Out of 98 questionnaires distributed, 96 valid questionnaires were collected this constitutes 97.95% (98/96) of the total response. The collected data were analysed tabulated, interpreted and presented in the form of this paper.

### Analysis and interpretation of data

The collected data is analysed and the result of the study are show below:

### Awareness of E-Resources

It may be observed from the Table – 1 that,

**Table 1:** Awareness of Electronic Resources

S.No.	Respondent Type	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	92	95.83%
2	No	04	4.16%
Total		96	100 %

From the above table-1 shows that the 95.83% of respondents of yes and 4.16% of respondents are not aware for the research work.

**Table 2:** Awareness of various types of e-resources

S.No.	Types of e-resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Internet	94	97.91%
2	e-mail	92	95.83%
3	e-books	78	81.25%
4	e-magazine	66	68.75%
5	e-newspaper	54	56.25%
6	e-shopping, e-service	38	39.58%

Table-2 reveals that the data regarding the awareness of various types of electronic resources by the students. The respondents were asked to note down the types of electronic resources they know in the questionnaire. Many of the have mentioned more the two types; that include e-books, e-magazines, internet, e-service, e-shopping, e-newspaper, etc. The table indicate that 94 (97.91%) students are aware of internet, 92 (95.83%) are aware of e-mail, 78(81.25%) are aware of e-books, 66 (68.75%) are aware of e-magazines, 54 (56.25%) are aware of e-newspapers and 38 (39.58%) are aware of e-shopping and e-service.

**Table 3:** Use of Online Public Access Catalogue

S.No.	Response Types	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	88	91.66%
2	No	08	8.33%
Total		96	100%

### Use of Online public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

Online Public Access Catalogue is an inventory of the stock of the Library. It is the tool for accessing the collection in the Library. The Library has purchased and installed local software for the library automation and students were trained to sue the OPAC. About the use of OPAC only 91.66 %(88) answered that they use of OPAC of the Alagappa University College of Education Library.

**Table 4:** Use of Library Websites

S.No.	Respondent Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	66	68.75%
2	No	30	31.25%
Total		96	100%

### Use of Library Websites

Regarding the use of Library Websites, 68.75 %( 66) answered that they used, while 31.25 %( 30) have not used.

**Table 5:** Use of various types of e-resources

S.No.	Use of e-resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	e-Books	56	58.33%
2	Internet	92	95.83%
3	e-magazine	28	29.16%
4	e-mail	76	79.16%
5	e-newspaper	37	38.54%

Table 5 shows that the options were given and the respondents were asked to mention the list of e-resources they used. Many of them mentioned more than two types. 58.33% (56) used e-books internet 95.83 %( 92) e-magazine 29.16 %(28) e-mail 79.16 (76) and 38.54%(37) e-newspapers.

**Table 6:** Source of Information about e-resources

S.No.	Sources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	College Library	56	58.33%
2	Friends	12	12.5%
3	Professors	18	18.75%
4	Parents	06	6.25%
5	Other sources	04	4.16%
Total		96	100%

Table 6 reveals that the 5 options were given to the respondents about the sources through which they came to know about sources of information about e-resources. The options give are: College Library, Friends, Professors, parents and other sources. 58.33(56) answered that they came to know about e-resources from the college Library, 12.5 %( 12) from friends, 18.75(18) from professors, 6.25 % (6) from parents and 4.16% (4) from other sources.

**Table 7:** Purpose of using internet

S.No.	Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Project Work	79	82.29
2	Study purpose	82	85.41
3	e-mail	40	41.66
4	Current & Additional information	52	54.16
5	Other Purpose	35	36.45

Table 7 shows that the various purpose for using the internet were given to the respondents and asked them to indicate their choices for using e-resources. The options given were:- Project Work, Study purpose, e-mail, Current and Additional Information and Other purpose. Many of them put their choices in more than one option. 82.29%(79) mentioned that they are using the inter for completing their projects and assignments, 85.41%(82) mentioned for the study purpose, 41.66%(40) for e-mail, 54.16%(52) for getting current and additional information and 36.45%(35) for other purposes.

### Findings

1. Almost 95.83 %( 92) students of college of education are aware of electronic resources.
2. Majority of the students are aware of the different types of e-resources available in the college of education library.
3. Regarding the use of Online Public Access Catalogue 91.66 %( 88) uses when they visit the Alagappa University College of Education Library.
4. About the use of college of education Library website, 58.33 %( 56) responded they use in different frequencies.
5. 82.29 %( 79) students answered that they like to use of project work to purpose of using internet in Alagappa University College of Education Library.
6. Many Students expressed that they use of e-resources for different purposes.

### Conclusion

This information era, the world is fast moving libraries have to contribute its best from the college library level onwards. In developed countries, equal importance is being given both for printed and e-reading. To attract the readers towards the library, e-resources also play an important role for fulfilling the needs of young readers. Now a days, e-resources are popular and are widely used by the users for various purposes.

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