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IMPACT OF E-RESOURCES IN ACADEMIC LEVEL: A SURVEY

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Abstract

Today, the availability and use of e – resources is very common. The use and dissemination of this abundant information through e-resources is a matter of study. The maximum use of e-resources which is provided freely through UGC-infonet and other institutional and educational database are depends upon teachers and librarians. This paper analyse the view of college students for accessing information resources from various medium. This study also highlights the preference and importance of e –resources among students. In this digital era the students wants to go more ahead for the proper use of information available in digital mode.

Keywords: E-resources, Database, Internet, Institutional repositories.

INTRODUCTION

This digital era blessed with easily accessible of information. ICT made tremendous changes in the sharing of information. Smart phone made a revolutionary change in the process of information retrieval and sharing. This brings very visible change in the information handling. As a developing country India also moved with change in the use of information. Due to the presence of ICT the process of information gathering and sharing in academic level also become more convenient. All information can easily disseminate and delivered through various products of ICT. The evolution of technology has brought about with it, several benefits the world over. Apart from enhancing efficiency, it has turned the world into a global village and made access to information quite easy. The use of information technology in education has become more than just an option. For effective learning, the education sector stakeholders have found ways of integrating the use of information technology in the everyday learning processes.[i]

This is a survey conducted at St.Joseph hostel, Ernakulam to know about how the academic level is affected by the ICT in the use of information. Out of hundred and ten students 25are pg students.32 are bed students and 10 are degree students and10 are TTC students 12 are CA students and rest of the 21 students are doing various short term courses like IELTS, Bank coaching etc. Interview method is used for this study. This study uses a sample of 75 students who are doing regular courses in various academic levels.

Use of Information Technology in Education

Education feeds technology which in turn forms the basis of education. It is therefore evident that information technology has affected changes to the methods, purpose and perceived potential of education. While education in the past has been centered on teaching and learning, information technology has affected changes to the aims of education, therefore now education is increasingly perceived as the process of creating, preserving, integrating, transmitting and applying knowledge[ii]. The following are the some use of information technologies in education

- Access to learning material
- Sharing of knowledge
- Continuous learning
- Using Audio-visual materials as teaching aids

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- Distance Education
- Instant access to educational information
- Group learning
- Proper Recording[iii]

The medium used for information accessing in academic level

Table 1. Medium Used for Accessing Information

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference	No preference
Library	28	18	21	8
	37.33%	24.00%	28.00%	10.67%
Internet	25	29	19	2
	33.33%	38.67%	25.33%	2.67%
Digital Library	0	4	7	64
	0.00%	5.33%	9.33%	85.33%
Lecture	22	24	28	1
	29.33%	32.00%	37.33%	1.33%

Table 1 shows 37.33 % students gives first preference to the library for getting information for their academic achievement and 33.33% students give first preference to the internet for accessing information and 29.33% students gives important to the lecture notes. None of them gives important to the digital library.
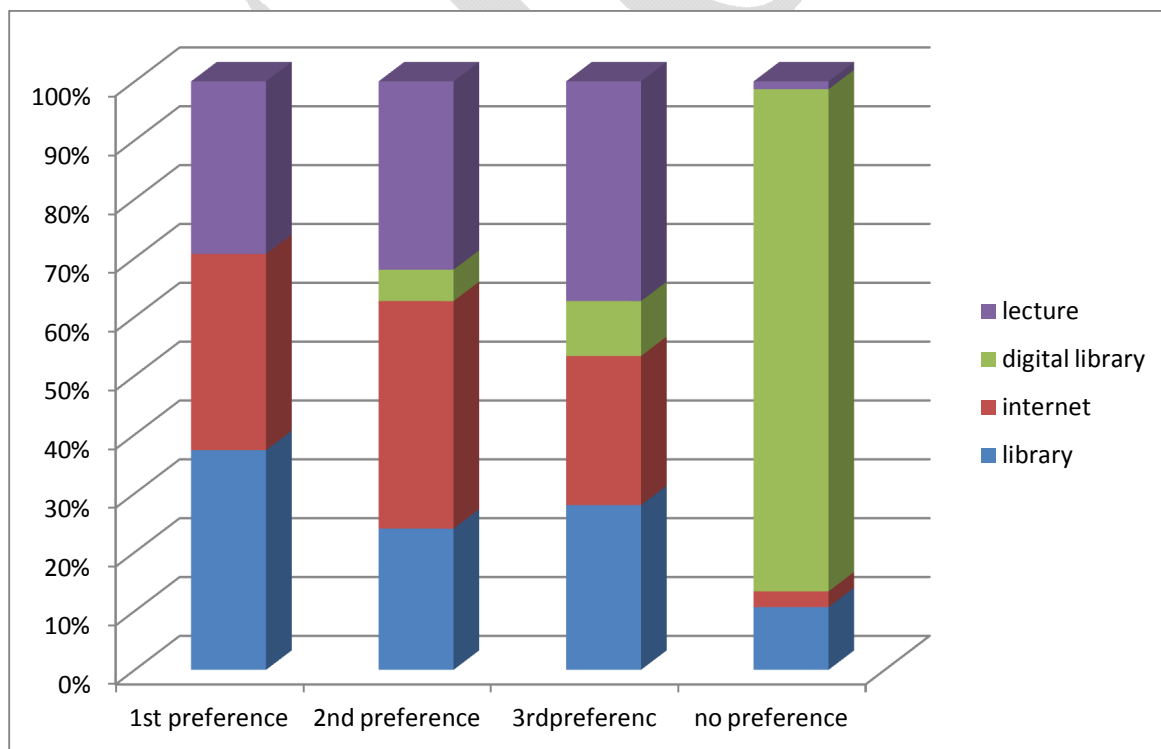

Figure 1. Preferred Medium Used for Information Accessing

Preferred Media in Various Academic Level

Table 2. Proffered Media in Various Academic Levels

	Library	Internet	Lecture note	Digital library	Total
PG	2	18	5	0	25
	8.00%	72.00%	20.00%	0	
Degree	3	2	5	0	10
	30.00%	20.00%	50.00%	0	
B.Ed.	19	4	7	0	30
	63.33%	13.33%	23.33%	0	
TTC	4	1	5	0	10
	40.00%	10.00%	50.00%	0	
	28(37.33%)	25(33.33%)	22(29.33%)	0	75

Table 2 shows that library books most used by B.Ed.students(63.33%) and 72% PG students used internet for their academic information. 50% degree students and TTC students depend on lecture note.
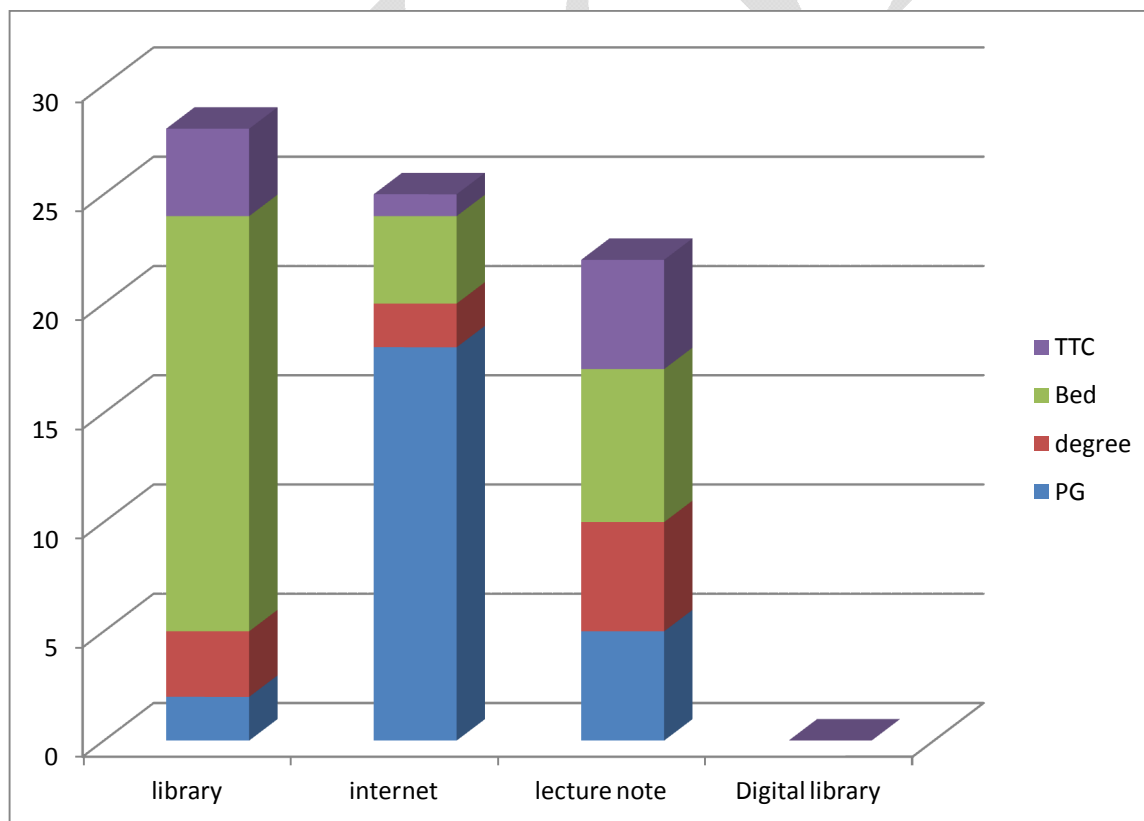

Figure 2. Preferred Media in Various Academic Levels

Preferred Internet Facility

Table 3. Most Preferred Internet Facility for Accessing Information

Internet Facilities	Most Preferred	2nd Preference	3rd Preference	4th Preference	5th Preference
Google Search	75 (100%)				
Database		5 (6.67%)	64 (85.33%)	6 (8%)	
E-Journal		70 (93.33%)	5 (6.67%)		
Institutional Repository				4 (5.33%)	71 (94.67%)
E-Books			6 (8%)	65 (86.67%)	

From Table 3 it is clear that all students used Google search for their information. They are little aware about institutional repositories. So they give 4th and 5th preference to institutional repositories for searching information. Only freely accessible information through Google search is mainly used by the students for their academic clarification. 65% students are not aware about E- resorces available through N-list, and other databases such as EBSCOhost, ERIC, Shodganga etc. Only 15% aware about e book collection like projectgutenberg. The awareness and use of Digital library and institutional repositories are very less.

FINDINGS

- Many PG students and B. Ed. students is used lecture note for information gathering and collecting. The internet facility is more used by the students rather than go to library. For rare books that are unavailable only they forced to go library.
- Social networks like Whatsapp are mainly used by the students for information exchange. Teachers provide their lecture note through the social networking and guide them in the dissertation work
- 90% students use smart phone for information collecting and disseminating sharing etc.
- The student are less aware about the use of academic database and e book reader in which free books can be accessible
- Every one heard about digital library but nobody use it.
- Most of the college students used internet for their information needs. But 75% students are not aware about Digital library, institutional repositories, databases which provide relevant information. N-LIST consortia which is available in college not effectively used by students.
- Institutional repositories are neither used by students
- Spoon feeding type lecturing is even this time is continued
- More students interested to time spent with phone and social networking sites.

SUGGESTIONS

- To change this attitude in information handling the librarian and teachers have great role
- It is the duty of librarian to maintain the digital library server in well manner and make use of it.
- In order to use the digital library resources the teachers will be provide assignments and check them through plagiarism detecting software.
- Provide all lecture notes through institutional repository and encourage the students to add new points to the lecture note using web resources and printed information resources and it is also kept in institutional repositories.

CONCLUSION

New technologies are changing the way we learn and they have also changed the process of teaching. To achieve specific goal both students and teachers are using these new technologies in educational level. The role of teachers will change in this information age. Because now a day's students do not lack information, but they would be guide to find, analyse and apply information. A teachers' role therefore to help students develop skills to find, analyse and disseminate information. In order to overcome the cost problem for accessing information available through internet institution has great role. It is the duty of the librarian and teachers to provide information through digital library and make circumstance for use it.

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