

# Use of Electronic Resources by the PG Students of Karnatak College, Dharwad: A Study

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## Abstract

*This paper shows how many users are using e-resources for their study. To the study a sample selected was 128 which included PG-students of the Karnatak College. The main objectives of this study is to know the usage of e-resources and services by the students of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics from Karnatak College to find out the impediments encountered by the users while accessing and using the e-resources. The data collected and analysed using simple percentage technique.*

## Keywords

E-Resources, E-books, E-Journals and Karnatak College

## I. Introduction

Electronic information is most essentially in this modern society because everyone can access everywhere. An electronic resource you can access through the internet. You can get the information when you need it. E-resources include electronic journals, electronic books, electronic thesis and online databases etc. There are many thousands of journals and books are available and the numbers of resources are added to our collections. Electronic resources are materials in digital format accessible electronically. Examples of e-resources are electronic journals, electronic books, and online databases in varied digital formats, Adobe Acrobat documents, WebPages and more. Use of e-resources permits the library to save space of library and time of the users.

Today libraries are given that electronic access to a broad diversity of resources, including indexes, full-text articles, complete journals and Internet/Web resources. The availability of a multitude of electronic information resources has made a well challenge to the libraries to improve the users (Al-Baridi & Ahmed, 2000). Fei Xu presents library with helpful information about selection criteria for an electronic resource assessment system and useful support on how to execute powerfully such a system. The Collecting of electronic resource usage is important to a library and information centres as it useful to the librarians to create more informed and well-rounded collection results (Fei Xu, 2010). The library and information services are rapidly changing in the 21st century. E-resources are helpful for libraries as well as everyone and every users of the society, who are ravenous to get a variety of information through the globe and electronic resources solve storage problems and control the flood of information (Kenchakkanavar, 2014).

Anil Kumar & Reddy (2014) conducted a study on Use pattern of e-journals among research scholars in university libraries of Andhra Pradesh. The authors found that 16.10% of the research scholars are not using UGC-INFONET e-journals Majority of the research scholars (71.40%) are facing problems in using e-journals and 69.03% research scholars are not using open access e-journals. The study suggests that the library authorities should make awareness among users about UGC-INFONET e-journals and open access journals and provide sufficient skills among them for accessing journals.

Kwadzo & Gladys (2015) examine the awareness level and usage of electronic databases by graduate students in the University of Ghana. The study explains that majority (96.9%) of students are

very much aware of the use of databases. The authors has also found that majority of students know about the databases from their lecturers and most of them accessed from the central library. The students are satisfied with the available databases on their relevant subjects and claimed the databases have impacted on their research activities and learning. Finally the authors recommended in the study that librarians particularly subject librarians should heighten the publicity of the databases and the use of e-resources more and effectively.

## II. Scope of the Study

The present study is confined to PG students of Karnatak College Dharwad, on the subject of the usability of electronic resources.

## III. Objectives of the Study

- To know the frequency and purpose of use of e resources.
- To find out the user awareness about the e resources.
- To point out the e-resources mostly consulted by the users.
- To identify the difficulties in obtaining the required information by the users.
- To investigate user's satisfaction with the facilities.

## IV. Methodology

The study was limited to the PG students of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics from Karnatak College, Dharwad. A questionnaire survey was conducted to collect the information concerning the use of e-resources, frequency of use of e-resources, purpose of using e-resources etc. Total of 165 questionnaires were distributed and collect the primary data out of which 128 questionnaires are returned by the users. Questionnaires were distributed randomly to the users.

## V. Data Analysis and Interpretations

Table 1: Department wise distributions

SI No.	Departments	Questionnaire Distributed	Questionnaire Received
1	Physics	43 (26.06%)	32 (25%)
2	Chemistry	28 (16.96%)	22 (17.18%)
3	Mathematics	94 (56.96)	74 (57.81%)
Total		165 (100%)	128 (100%)

Table 1 show that distributed Questionnaires among PG Students of Karnatak College, Dharwad. 43 (26.06%) copies of questionnaire were distributed among physics students and received 32 (25%) questionnaires, in chemistry 28 (16.96%) distributed and in reply to distributed questionnaires 22 (17.18%) received and in mathematics 94 (56.96) distributed and collected 74 (57.81%) questionnaires.

Table 2 : Gender wise of Respondents

SI No.	Gender	Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	42	32.81%
2	Female	86	67.18%
Total		128	100%

Table 2 Analyses that 42 (32.81%) were male, 86 (67.18%) were female. This clearly reveals that female students are the most users of electronic resources in Karnatak College, Dharwad.

Table 3 : Age wise of respondents

SI No.	Age	Respondents		
		Physics	Chemistry	Mathematics
1	21-23	21 (65.62%)	18 (81.81%)	64 (86.48%)
2	24-26	11 (34.37%)	4 (18.18%)	9 (12.16%)
3	27 and above	-	-	1 (1.35%)
Total		32 (100%)	22 (100%)	74 (100%)

Table 3 describes that out of 128 respondents, 103 respondents belongs to age group of 21-23 years which shows majority of respondents are youngsters. At the same time 24 respondents belongs to the age group of 24-26 years and 1 respondent belongs to the age group of 27 years and above. It is observed that the respondents from the age group 21-23 years are in large numbers.

Table 4 : Awareness of e-Resources

SI No.	Level of Awareness	Respondents		
		Physics	Chemistry	Mathematics
1	Aware	11(34.37%)	14(63.63%)	46(62.16%)
2	Somewhat Aware	16(50%)	06(27.27%)	21(28.37%)
3	Unaware	5(15.62%)	02(9.09%)	7(9.45%)
Total		32 (100%)	22 (100%)	74 (100%)

Table 4 shows that majority of the respondents in mathematics department 46(62.16%) respondents, in chemistry 14(63.63%) respondents and 11(34.37%) in physics replied that they are aware of e resources while 21(28.37%) of mathematics and 16(50%) students responded that they were somewhat aware of e resources. Others are replied unaware of using e resources. This table indicates highest number of students having awareness about e resources.

Table 5 : Frequency of using e-resources

SI No.	Frequency	Respondents		
		Physics	Chemistry	Mathematics
1	Two/three times in a week	18(56.25%)	12(54.54%)	15(20.27%)

2	When necessary	08(25%)	04(18.18%)	45(60.81%)
3	Occasionally	04(12.5%)	04(18.18%)	09(12.16%)
4	Never	02(6.25%)	02(9.09%)	05(6.75%)
<b>Total</b>		32 (100%)	22 (100%)	74 (100%)

Table 5 indicates that 45 students i.e. 18(56.25%) respondents in physics, 12(54.54%) respondents in chemistry and 15(20.27%) students in mathematics use e resources two/three times in a week. 45(60.81%) students from mathematics, 4(18.18%) students from chemistry and 8(25%) students from physics are told we are using e resources when necessary. Very less number of students is using e resources occasionally.

Table 6 : Usages of Various E-Resources

SI No.	Various e-Resources	Respondents		
		Physics n=32	Chemistry n=22	Mathematics n=74
1	E Journals	19(59.37%)	17(77.27%)	55(74.32%)
2	E-Books	30(93.75%)	14(63.63%)	38(51.35%)
3	Databases	12(37.5%)	11(50%)	43(58.10%)
4	Electronic thesis and dissertations	15(46.87%)	05(22.72%)	21(28.37%)
5	E-Newspapers	32(100%)	19(86.36%)	66(89.185)
6	Online reports	16(50%)	07(31.81%)	13(17.56%)

Table 6 represents that 19(59.37%) out of 32, 17(77.27%) out of 22 and 55(74.32%) out of 75 student using e journals. 82 respondents i.e. 30(93.75%) from physics, 14(63.63%) from chemistry and 38(51.35%) from mathematics were using e-books. Some of the students are aware about databases and e-thesis. Maximum respondents agreed that they were reading e-newspapers. It will show that students are using e books and e journals only for their study purposes.

Table 7 : Purpose of using E-Resources

SI No.	Purpose	Respondents		
		Physics n=32	Chemistry n=22	Mathematics n=74
1	For study	29 (90.62%)	17(77.27%)	51(68.91%)
2	Seminar/workshop	18(52.94%)	14(63.63%)	22(29.72%)
3	To know Current developments in subject field	06(18.75%)	08(36.36%)	10(13.51%)
4	Project Work	11(34.37%)	11(50%)	29(39.18%)
5	General Studies	04(12.5%)	07(31.81%)	09(12.16%)
6	Paper writing	09(28.12%)	15(68.18%)	33(44.59%)
7	Career development	--	02(9.09%)	--

Table 7 describes 29 respondents (90.62%) from physics, 17(77.27%) from chemistry and 51(68.91%) from mathematics agreed that they used the electronic resources for study purpose. 54 respondents 18(52.94%) from physics, 14(63.63%) from chemistry and 22(29.72%) from mathematics agreed that they

using e resources to prepare the seminar/workshops. 24 students from all three departments agreed that they used e resources know the current developments in specific subject. 11(34.37%) from of physics department, 11(50%) of chemistry and 29(39.18%) of mathematics department showing interest in using e resources for their projects work. Finally 57 respondents from all departments showing interest on e resources for research paper writing.

Table 8 : Frequently used location to access e-resources

SI No.	Frequently used location	Respondents		
		Physics n=32	Chemistry n=22	Mathematics n=74
1	Library	16(50%)	13(59.09%)	57(77.02%)
2	Computer Lab	09(28.12%)	15(68.18%)	23(31.08%)
3	Cyber cafe	06(18.75%)	04(18.18%)	12(16.21%)
4	Wi-Fi zones	10(31.25%)	08(36.36%)	14(18.91%)
5	Home	00	02(9.09%)	07(9.45%)
6	Other Places	00	04(18.18%)	06(8.10%)

Table 8 represents that 16(50%) out of 32 respondents from physics, 13(59.09%) out of 22 from chemistry and 57(77.02%) out of 74 respondents accessing e journals within library. 47 respondents i.e. 09(28.12%) from physics, 15(68.18%) from chemistry and 23(31.08%) from mathematics were using e resources in computer lab only. Some of the respondent's i.e. 22 06(18.75%) physics, 04(18.18%) chemistry and 12(16.21%) mathematics respondents are accessing e resources in cyber cafes. Wi-Fi zones are became another place to access e resources. 32 respondents from all three P G Departments show interest in accessing e resources through Wi-Fi zones and lastly very less number of respondents using e resources in home.

Table 9 : Problems faced by the users in accessing electronic resources

SI No.	Problems	Respondents		
		Physics N=32	Chemistry N=22	Mathematics N=74
1	Slow server	28(87.5%)	17(77.27%)	68(91.89%)
2	Problems of power supply	19(59.37%)	15(68.18%)	55(74.32%)
3	Break down of the system	15(46.87)	21(95.45%)	32(43.24%)
4	Lack of proper guidance	14(43.75%)	09(40.90%)	24(32.43%)
5	Others	05(15.62)	07(31.81)	14(18.91%)

This table 9 revealed that majority of the students 28 (87.5%) out of 32 respondents from physics, 17(77.27%) out of 22 from chemistry and 68 (91.89%) out of 74 respondents are faced slow server problem, 89 respondents faced power supply problem in library, 68 respondents faced problem of breakdown of computers, and 47 respondents told that in accessing e resources not getting the proper guidance. Little bit number of respondents is having other problems to access e resources. This meant that there is a need of a system administrator to maintain computers and a good power backup.

Table 10 : Satisfaction Levels of Users

SI No.	Satisfaction Level	Respondents		
		Physics	Chemistry	Mathematics
1	Satisfied	24(75%)	16(72.72%)	61(82.43%)
2	Not satisfied	2(6.25%)	3(13.63%)	6(8.10%)
3	Average	6(18.75%)	3(13.63%)	7(9.45%)
<b>Total</b>		32 (100%)	22 (100%)	74 (100%)

Table 10 shows that most of the respondents from all three departments i.e. 24(75%) from physics, 16(72.72%) from chemistry and 61(82.43%) from mathematics are satisfied with e resources. 11 respondents of three departments are not happy with e resources and 16 respondents are having average satisfaction about e resources.

### VI. Findings and Conclusion

The study indicates the awareness and utilization of E-Resources and its services among users of this college. In this study Physics, chemistry and mathematics students are different purpose they are using e-resources. The researchers found majority of that 90.62% from physics, 77.27% from chemistry and 68.91% from mathematics students are agreed that they used the electronic resources for study purpose and many students are using e-resources to prepare the seminar/workshops.

Maximum respondents agreed that they were reading e-newspapers. It will show that students are using e books and e journals only for their study purposes. Most of users faced slow server problem and some students are faced power supply problem in library, majority of users prefer e-resource for update current information. At the same time e-newspapers also used. This study shows that IT based library services are being less utilized by the users. However, a good percentage of respondents from Karnatak Science College are satisfied with e resources. Based on the findings of the study following recommendations were made by the users. Speed of Internet connection to be increased for easy access to available e-resources, to create more awareness on e-resources and high speed Wi-Fi needs to be established, so that users can use of online e-resources within the campus.

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