

Use of INDEST and other e-Resources by Engineering Students and Teachers of Assam

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Abstract

Due to crunching financial assistance and explosion of information resources, it is not possible to serve all information in printed form by academic libraries. But the main goal of any library is to meet the requirement of users at right time, in right place, at right price and in right format. Therefore the e-resources play a vital role to fulfill this goal. The main objective of this study is to know how the e-resources are using by the students and teachers of engineering college (Both Private and Government) of Assam, and to know what are the problems they faced by using e-resources. This study will help others to solve the problems and take benefits of e-resources. The data are collected from four government and two private engineering colleges of Assam. These data are evaluate by using MS-Excel. In compare with private engineering has better infrastructure then the government engineering college, but still users of e-resources from government engineering college are very encouraging. This study will help the authorities to find the problems and should take necessary action to solve these to get healthier environment to use e-resources in engineering colleges of Assam.

Keywords: INDEST, E-Resources, Engineering College Libraries

1. Introduction

Due to the explosion of information resources for a library it is difficult to meet the users need easily. Changes in Technology in recent years have dramatically alternated how information is access, stored and disseminated. This change effects not only in collection development but also the service provide by the libraries. With advance in technology and e-publishing access to information globally by overcoming the traditional barrier of time, space and become easy. Large amount of scholarly literature in full text journal, books, thesis, reports etc are publishing electronic medium, which can be used by users globally without spending more money and time. Therefore the no of users of e-resources are increasing day by day. But still due to the scattering

of information it takes time and money to access the correct sources of information. To solve this problem many consortia, database etc are made from which user can get there proper sources of information in related field by not spending more money and time too.

Today internet plays a vital role in teaching and research process. It is assumed that the engineering students in India feel more dependent on the interest for their assignments and projects. Engineering Faculties feel handicapped in collecting information without using internet.

1.1 INDEST

The "Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology", consortium was set up in 2003 by ministry of Human Resource Development. This consortium was renamed as INDEST – AICTE consortium in December 2005. This is basically made



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for engineering and technological institute. This consortium serves all electronic resources to its member at highly discount rate. This consortium helps the institute to make right choice of e-resources in the field of engineering. This consortia act as a single window service for a large no of institute to meet their needs at very nominal cost without spending time.

1.2 E-Resource and Services

The e-resources are which information stored in electronically and made access through electronic systems. It includes CD-ROM, DVD, online database, consortia, e-journals, e-books etc. Some examples of useful consortia other than INDEST are – CSIR E-journals consortium, MCIT Consortium, FORSA, N-LIST, UGC Infonet digital Library consortium etc. IEEE Explore, Elsevier Science Direct, ASCE Journals, ASME Journals, EBSCO, J-GATE Engineering etc are also some very famous and useful e-resources available in the field of engineering.

Beside this some other free open sources are available in internet from where user can meet their needs personally without spending money. Some free sources which used by most of the teachers and students are – e-thesis Portal, world Scientific Journals, Directory of open access books, Springer open e books, Springer open e journals, wiki books etc.

2. Objective of the Study

With this study I would like to explore the use of e-resources including INDEST by the both government and private engineering colleges of Assam. This study will find different problems by using e-resources which can be solved for better performance in engineering education in Assam. Some other objectives are given below:-

- a) To find out awareness of INDEST and other e-resources for engineering students and faculty members of Assam.
- b) To find the purpose for using e-resources.
- c) To find the problems in accessing INDEST and other e-resources in engineering colleges of Assam.
- d) To find the satisfaction level of user regarding e-resources.
- e) To suggest improvement measures for overcome the problems faced by the student and teachers while using e-resources.

3. Coverage Area

There are four government and seven private engineering college/institution are running in Assam. My study covers all four government engineering college and two private engineering institution from these. This study covers only the graduate level engineering students and all types of faculty members and Librarians of these engineering colleges. The details of the colleges are given in the table.

Table 1: List of Engineering Colleges/Institutions Cover for My Study

SI No	Name of the College/Institution	Year of Establishment	Category
1	Assam Engineering College (AEC)	1955	Govt
2	Jorhat Engineering College (JEC)	1959	Govt
3	Jorhat Institute of Science and Technology (JIST)	2008	Govt
4	Bineshwar Brahma Engineering College (BBEC)	2008	Govt
5	Girija Nanda Choudhury Institute of Management and Technology (GIMT)	2011	Pvt
6	Kaziranga University (KU)	2012	Pvt

4. Data Collected from

The data collected from the students, teachers and librarians of the colleges. The numbers of popula-

tion from different colleges are given below in tabular form.

Table 2: Details of population covered

SI No	Name of the College/Institution	No of Librarian	No of Teachers	No of Students
1	Assam Engineering College (AEC)	1	10	20
2	Jorhat Engineering College (JEC)	1	15	20
3	Jorhat Institute of Science and Technology (JIST)	1	10	30
4	Bineshwar Brahma Engineering College (BBEC)	1	10	15
5	Girija Nanda Choudhury Institute of Management and Technology (GIMT)	1	10	15
6	Kaziranga University (KU)	1	10	20
Total Population		6	65	120
Percentage of population		3%	34%	63%

5. Analysis of Data

5.1 Users of INDEST and Other e-Resources

Table 3: User Detail of Different e-Resources

Category	INDEST	e-journal	e-books	Other Sources/ Database
Teachers	23 (35%)	65 (100%)	65 (100%)	60 (92%)
Students	12 (10%)	87 (72%)	113 (94%)	80 (67%)

In table 3 shows that the user of INDEST is very poor. During interaction it is found that maximum student and teachers even don't know about INDEST. But the no of e-resource user are very encouraging. Almost all participator uses e- journal

and e- books. Teachers are using e-thesis also in a large scale. Some other data base like Elsevier Science Direct, ASCE Journals, ASME Journals, EBSCO, J-GATE Engineering used in a large scale.

5.2 Frequency of using e-resources

Table 4: Detail e-Resources using Frequency

Category	Daily	Many times in Week	Once in a Week	Some time in a Month
Teachers	22	29	11	03
Students	36	55	23	06
Total	58	84	34	09
Percentage	31.4%	45.4%	18.4%	4.9%

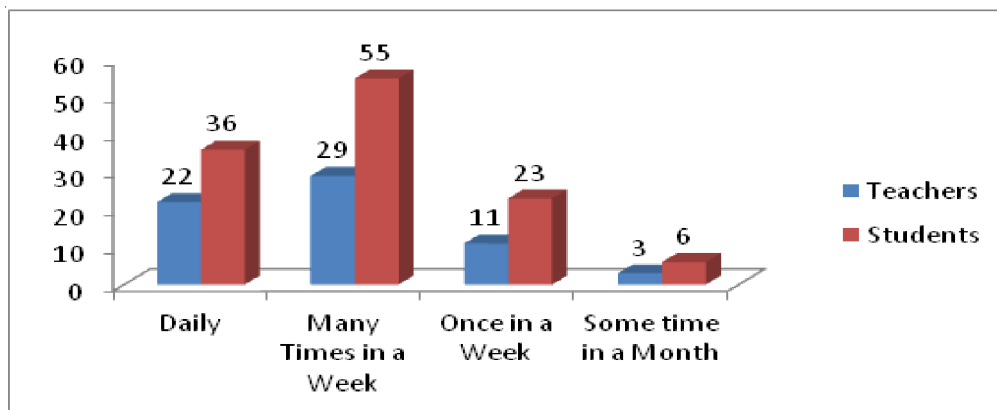


Figure 1: Frequency of using e-resources

Form the figure 1 it is found that maximum users used e-resources many times in a week. Total 45% of users using e-resources many times in a week

and 31.4% of users are using e-resources daily. 18.4% users using once in a week. Very less no of user using e-resources some times in a month.

5.3 Purpose of using e-Resources

5.3.1 For Teachers

Table 5: Purpose of using e-resources by Teachers

Sl No	Purpose	No of Percentage	Respondents
1	Update Themselves	24	36.9%
2	For delivering lectures	20	30.8%
3	To Make Study material	12	18.5%
4	For Research Work	6	9.2%
5	Other	3	4.6%

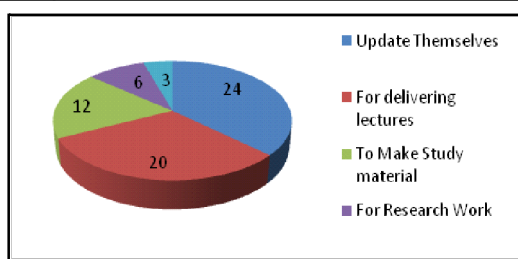


Figure 2: Purpose of using e-resources by Teachers

From Table 5 it is found that maximum teachers (37%) are using e resources for updating themselves. According to them the e-resources give information within a very short time and some time it will take less costly also. Major no of teacher (20%) are using e-resources to collect updated information for giving lecture in their classes.

5.3.2 For Students

Table 6: Purpose of using e-resources by Students

Sl No	Purpose	No of Percentage	Respondents
1	Update Themselves	32	26.7%
2	For Project Works	43	35.8%
3	For Assignment Submission	35	29.1%
4	To prepare for Examination	4	3.3%
5	Others	6	5%

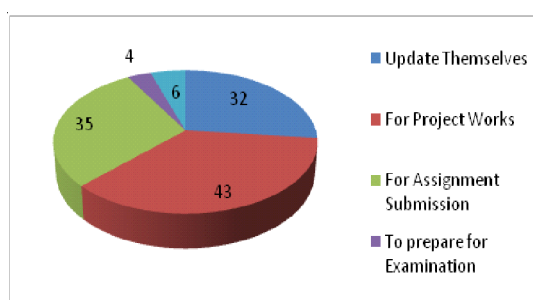


Figure 3:- Purpose of using e-resources by Students

Table 6 shows that maximum no of student (36%) are using e –resources for Projects works. They have collected new and updated information for projects from e resources. 26.7% and 29.1% student are using e-resources to update knowledge and to submit their project respectively.

5.4 Guidance for using e-resources

5.4.1 To Teachers

Table 7:- Guidance for using e-Resources to Teachers

Sl	Guided By	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Individual Efforts	36	55.3%
2	Senior Person	9	13.8%
3	Colleague	12	18.5%
4	Library Person	4	6.1%
5	Others	4	6.1%

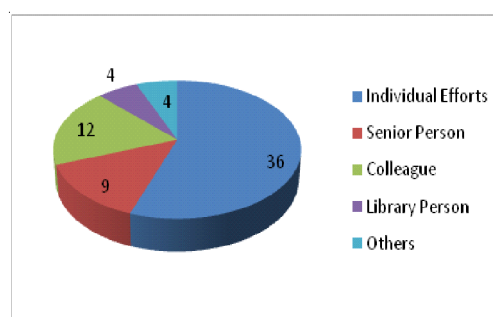


Figure 4:Guidance for using e-resources to Teachers

From the figure 4 it is clear that maximum teachers (55%) are using e-resources by their own efforts. 18% of teachers are getting help or guidance from their Colleagues. Minimum no of teachers (6.1%) are saying that they got guidance from library person

5.4.2 To Student

Table 8: Guidance for using e-resources to Students

Sl No	Guided By	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Individual Efforts	23	19.2%
2	From Teachers	52	43.3%
3	From Friends	18	15%
4	From Family Members	11	9.1%
5	Library Person	14	11.7%
6	Others	2	1.7%

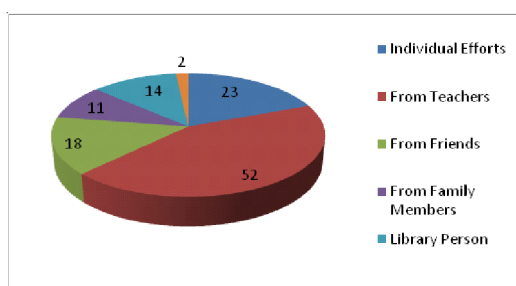


Figure 5:- Guidance for using e-resources to Students

From figure 5 we can see that maximum no of students (43%) are getting help or guidance from their teachers. 23% of student are using e-resources by their own efforts. But here in case of student it is found that good no of student got help from the library person also.

5.5 Place of using e-resources

Table 9: Place of using e-resources

Sl No	Options	Teachers	Students	Total	Percentage
1	Library	11	19	30	16.2%
2	Computer Center	23	34	57	30.8%
3	Department	14	11	25	13.5%
4	Home/ Hostel	15	43	58	31.3%
5	Other place	2	13	15	8.1%

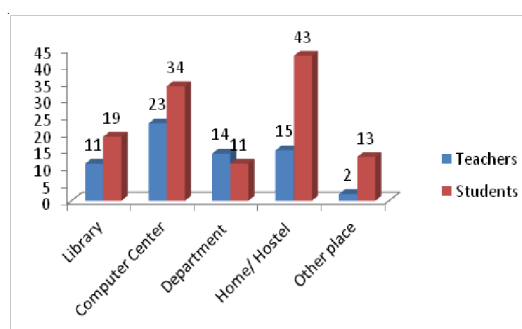


Figure 6: Place of using e-resources by Students and Teachers

From figure 6 it is observed that maximum no of users access e-resources at their home or hostel by using personal internet connection. A major part of user are using internet at the computer center of their respective colleges or institutions. It is found that in all government engineering colleges does not have internet browsing facility for students and teachers in their libraries. Hence they bound to access internet from other places.

5.6 Satisfactory level by using e-resources

Table 10:- Satisfactory levels of users

Sl Nb	Response	Teachers	Students	Total	Percentage
1	Fully Satisfied	5	23	28	15.1%
2	Satisfied	27	56	83	44.9%
3	Less Satisfied	17	27	44	23.8%
4	Dissatisfied	16	14	30	16.2%

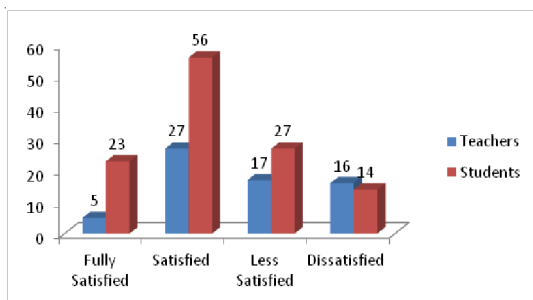


Figure 7: Satisfactory levels of Student and Teachers

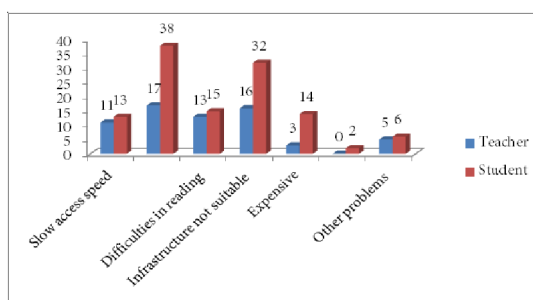


Figure 9: Problems faced in using e-resources by Students & Teachers

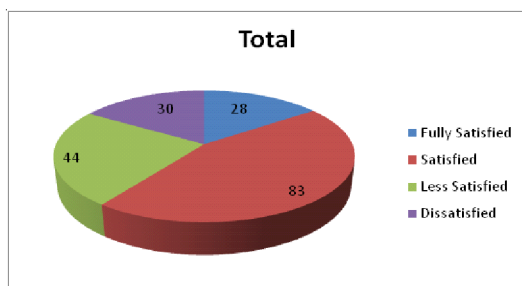


Figure 8 : Satisfactory levels of All Users

From the figure 7 it is clear that maximum no users (45%) satisfy by using e-resources but still only 15% of users are fully satisfy. There are still some users who less satisfy by using e-resources. During study it is found that there are lots of problem faced by the users which not giving their satisfaction.

5.7 Problems faced in using e-resources

Table 11:- Problems faced in using e-resources

Sl No	Problems	Teacher	Student	Total	Percentage
1	Slow access speed	11	13	24	13%
2	To find relevant information	17	38	55	30%
3	Difficulties in reading	13	15	28	15.1 %
4	Infrastructure not suitable	16	32	48	26%
5	Expensive	3	14	17	9.2%
6	Library persons are not supportive	0	2	2	1%
7	Other problems	5	6	11	6%

From table 11 shows that users are facing problems by access e-resources due to flood of information. During interview also they said that it is very difficult to find the correct and authentic information from internet. 26 % of users are facing problems due to poor infrastructure. During study it is found that only the Kaziranga University has a very good facility to use e-resources. The IT sector are improving day by day so the formats of publishing are changing very rapidly, therefore 15.1% user is says that due to the change of format they have faced problem to use e-resources.

6. Findings

With the help of the study some very important points are found:-

- i) Users of INDEST are very less among the students and teachers of engineering colleges of Assam.
- ii) Other e-resources are used by a handsome no of users and the frequency of using is also encouraging.
- iii) By using e-resources the students and teachers are satisfied enough. They face a major problem to find relevant information from the ocean of information sources.

- iv) Most of them are using e-resources personally, or from their computer center of their respective colleges.
- v) The teachers are using e-resources to keep update themselves and the students are using it for their project and assignment works.
- vi) In compare with private engineering colleges, the Government engineering colleges are lacking behind to serve e-resources to the users.

7. Suggestions

Based on the study some suggestions are made which may give strength to the engineering students and teachers of Assam.

- i) Government engineering college needs to develop their infrastructure.
- ii) The library of engineering college should have internet connection with at least 10 computer for the student
- iii) Library personal need to take initiative to develop the library service and try to serve e-resources to users.
- iv) Some orientation program should be taken for the students that they can use proper e-resources.
- v) Engineering college authority should go for INDEST or other database to get more information without spending much money.
- vi) There should be separate library web page which can guide the users to get proper information within a very short time.

8. Conclusion

The e-resources are playing a important role in today's learning system. In case of engineering field it is very much essential for up-to-date study. The

traditional libraries cannot full fill the needs of users easily. The e-resources are the only way to enhance the engineering education. The online facility has enabled the teacher and the students to enhance their academic excellence by providing them latest information. In order to make the e-resources more beneficial, the library staff needs to acquire good deal of efficiency in the collection, organization and dissemination of information. The library services supplemented by web base services can only meet the users need at right place on right time at right cost.

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