
Students Attitudes Towards Digital Resources and Services in B.I.E.T., Davanagere : A Survey

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Abstract

To evaluate the use of Digital Resources and services in Bapuji Institute of Engineering and Technology (BIET) college library in Davanagere (Karnataka). a survey of 100 Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Research Students of different branches was conducted by administering questionnaire. The analysis of the collected data covers the digital resources and services and how the digital resources improve carrier of the students and also deals with the problems that are faced in using the resources and services. Finally, it concludes that the main intention of the use of digital resources and services has been the academic interest of the students.

Keywords: Digital Resources, Survey, Academic Library

0. Introduction

With advancement of technology the libraries are moving towards digital resources, which are found to be less expensive and more helpful for easy access of information. In the digital era the commonly available digital resources like CD-ROMs, Online Databases, Library OPACs and Internet etc., which are replacing the print media.

At present the Karnataka state has more than 110 engineering colleges, which are affiliated, to Visveswaraiah Technological University. The Bapuji Institute of Engineering and Technology (BIET) is one of the prestigious engineering college established in the year 1979-80 with the initiation and foresight of the members of the Bapuji Educational Association Davanagere. This institute has 12 under graduate and 5 post-graduate programmes in engineering, technology and management. Research activities are also undertaken in all the departments in this institution. At present this institute is having more than 2192 students from different parts of the country and a few foreign students are studying here. The BIET Library has 31,217 volumes, 210 Indian & foreign Journals, DELNET databases searching and Internet facilities etc. are available in this library.

1. Scope and Limitation

The study is confined to the Under Graduate, Post-Graduate and few research students of BIET College Davanagere. The scope of the study is limited to the use of digital resources and services and its aim is to fulfill the academic needs of the students. It covers the available Digital Resources and services in BIET Library Davanagere.

2. Objectives of the Study

To know the availability of different types of digital resources and services in BIET library.

- ✍ To know how the students are using the different types of digital resources.
- ✍ To know the purpose and utilization of the digital resources services by the students.

- ✍ To find out the hindrances faced by the students while accessing and using digital resources.
- ✍ To study the impact of digital resources over the traditional one.
- ✍ To suggest suitable recommendations to improve the digital resources and services for the benefit of students.

3. Methodology

A questionnaire was designed to elicit the opinion of the students. These were distributed among the different branches of under graduate, Post Graduate and few Research students. The collected data was further supplemented by informal discussions with the students. The analysis and interpretation of the data is presented in the subsequent sections.

4. Analysis

4.1 Semester wise Responses received from the students

Table 1 shows that, of the total 30.00% of the 7th & 8th semester followed by 25% of 5th & 6th semester and 15% of 3rd & 4th semester students are responded. Of the total 7.00% of each previous and final year P.G students and 4.00% of research scholars have responded the queries.

Table 1
Semester wise Responses received from the students

Semester	No of questionnaire issued	No of responses received	% of total responded
1 st and 2 nd	15	12	12.00
3 rd and 4 th	20	15	15.00
5 th and 6 th	30	25	25.00
7 th and 8 th	45	30	30.00
P.G Previous year	10	7	7.00
P.G Final year	10	7	7.00
Research Students	5	4	4.00
Total	135	100	100

5.1.1 Sex wise distribution of student's responses

Table 2 reveals that 65.00% of different branches of male and 35.00% of female students have studying in this college. This is a glaring example of sex-ratio imbalance of student's community.

Table 2
Sex wise distribution of respondents

Sex	No. of responses	Percentage
Male	65	65.00
Female	35	35.00
Total	100	100.00

5.1.2 Frequency of visit to Library by the students

The following table 3 shows that, of the total (100) respondents 30 (30.00%) of the students visit their library 'everyday' followed by 24.00% visit 'once in a week' and 15.00% of each student respondents visit '2-3 time a day' and 'once in a month' respectively. Whereas, 3.00% of the respondents 'never visit' the library.

Table 3
Frequency of visit to library

Frequency	No. of Responses	Percentage
Everyday	30	30.00
2-3 times in a day	15	15.00
Once in a week	24	24.00
Once in a month	15	15.00
Occasionally	13	13.00
Never	3	3.00
Total	100	100.00

Students opinion about availability of digital resources

Table 4 shows that, the availability of digital resources in the library. Of the total responses 55(39.28%) of the responses indicate the library has 'Internet' facility followed by 25.00% indicate 'CD-ROMs' are available in their library. 7.14% of each student's responses shows 'OPAC' and 'online databases' are available in the library respectively.

Table 4
Students opinion about the availability of digital resources

Type of digital resources	No. of responses	% of responses
CD-ROMs	35	25.00
Internet	55	39.28
OPAC	10	7.14
Online Database	10	7.14
E-journals	18	12.85
E-books	12	8.57
Any others	00	00
Total	140	100.00

*It is a multiple-choice question. *

5.2.1 Frequency of use of digital resources by the students

The frequency of using digital resources by the students is shown in the Table 5. Of the total respondents 30.00% use CD-ROMs 'everyday' followed by 23.00% use 'once in a week and 4.00% of the respondents 'never' use the CD-ROMs. Majority of the 43(43.00%) respondents use Internet 'Everyday' followed 25.00% use '2-3 times a day' and very negligible percentage (2.00%) of the respondents 'never' use Internet.

However, 30.00% of the students use OPAC 'once in a month' whereas, 27.00% use 'once in a week' and less percentage of (8.00%) the respondents 'never' use OPAC. Again 30.00% of the students are use online database 'once in a month' and 23.00% use everyday'. Less percentage of (7.00%) of respondents 'never' use online database.

Of the total 21.00% of the respondents use E-Journals 'once in a month' whereas, 20.00% use 'everyday' and 20(20.00%) respondents 'never' use e-journals. Majority of respondents 30(30.00%) use e-books 'once in a month' and 25.00% use 'everyday' followed by 24.00% 'once in a week' and 9.00% of the students 'never' use e-books in the library.

Table 5
Frequency of use of digital resources by the students

Frequency	CD-ROM	Internet	OPAC	Online data	E-Journals	E- Books
Everyday	30 (30.00)	43(43.00)	20(20.00)	23(23.00)	20(20.00)	25(25.00)
2-3 times a day	19(19.00)	25(25.00)	15(15.00)	12(12.00)	12(12.00)	15(15.00)
Once in week	23(23.00)	22(22.00)	27(27.00)	18(18.00)	18(18.00)	24(24.00)
Once in a month	15(15.00)	5(5.00)	30(30.00)	30(30.00)	21(21.00)	30(30.00)
Occasionally	9(9.00)	3(3.00)	00(0.00)	10(10.00)	9(9.00)	15(15.00)
Never	4(4.00)	2(2.00)	8(8.00)	7(7.00)	20(20.00)	9(9.00)
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

5.2.2 Student's opinion regarding the use of Internet service in the library.

Majority of the respondents (86.00%) use Internet service in the library followed by 14.00% of the respondents use Internet out side the library.

5.2.3 Students opinion regarding Preference of search engines

The Table 6 exhibits that, of the total 50.00% of respondents prefer to use 'Google' followed by 25.00% 'Yahoo' and 10.00% each of the respondents prefer to use 'AltaVista and MSN' search engines respectively. Only 5.00% of respondents indicate they prefer 'Askeeves'.

Table 6
Preference of using search engines

Search Engines	No. of Responses	Percentage
Google	50	50.00
Yahoo	25	25.00
AltaVista	10	10.00
MSN	10	10.00
Askeeves	5	5.00
Total	100	100

5.2.4 Purpose of using digital Resources by the students

Table 6 reveals that, Majority 60(34.09%) of responses indicate that the digital resources are used 'for finding relevant information in their subject' followed by 21.59% responses indicate for there 'research purpose'. However, 34(19.31%)of respondents using 'for their carrier development' and only 15(8.52%) of respondents are using digital resources for their communication purpose.

Table 6
Purpose of using Electronic Resources

Purposes	No. of responses	% of responses
For research purpose	38	21.59
For communication	15	8.52
To collect relevant information in my subject	60	34.09
Update the subject knowledge &General knowledge	29	16.47
For career development	34	19.31
Total	176	100.00

* It is a multiple-choice question. *

5.2.5 Learned to use electronic resources

Table 7 shows that, the most popular method of acquiring the necessary skill to use digital resources. Majority of 38(31.93%) respondents learned through 'Trial and error' method, followed by 27(22.68%) respondents are taking 'Guidance from Library staff' and 20(16.80%) respondents learned with the help of 'Computer department staff'. Less number of 15(12.60%) respondents learned from 'External courses'.

Table 7
Learned to use electronic resources

Learned to useElectronic resources	No. of responses	Percentage
Trial and error	38	31.93
Guidance from the Library staff	27	22.68
Course offered by the Institutions	16	13.44
Guidance from departmental staff of computer science	20	16.80
External courses	15	12.60
Any other (please specify)	3	2.52
Total	119	100.00

Multiple-choice question

5.2.6 Students opinion towards adequacy of information in digital resources

Table 8 shows that, Majority 60(60.00%) of respondents indicate the information available in the digital resources is 'Always' adequate followed by 35(35.00%) indicate 'some time' and 5(5.00%) of respondents felt that, the information available in the electronic resources is 'never adequate'.

Table 8
Adequacy of information in digital resources

Opinion	No of respondents	Percentage
Always	60	60.00
Some time	35	35.00
Never	5	5.00
Total	100	100.00

5.2.7 Hindrances in accessing the digital resources

Table 9 shows the opinion of the respondents regarding hindrances in accessing the digital resources. Majority 44(36.36%) of the respondents stated that, 'too much information is retrieved' is the main barrier to use digital resources, followed by 30(24.79%) opined that, 'time consuming' and 19(15.70%) felt that 'lack of IT knowledge to effectively utilize the services'. Only 15(12.39%) respondents stated that, 'limited access to computers' is the main barrier to use digital resources.

Table 9
Hindrances in accessing the digital resources

Hindrance	No. of responses	Percentage
Too much information is retrieved	44	36.36
Time consuming	30	24.79
Lack of IT knowledge to effectively utilize the services	19	15.70
Using digital resources often distracts from doing work	9	7.43
Limited access to Computers	15	12.39
Any other (please specify)	4	3.30
Total	121	100.00

It is a multiple-choice question

5.2.8 Students opinion regarding Impact of digital resources on their academic career

Table 10 shows that, Majority 42(30.65%) of respondents stated 'access to a current up to date information' is a benefit of using digital resources. Similarly 34(24.81%) expressed 'faster access to information' is the advantage and 32(23.35%) indicate 'easier access to information' is the benefit to develop the academic career of the students.

Table 10
Impact of electronic resources on academic career

Category	No of response	Percentage
Access to a current up-to-date information	42	30.65
Easier access to information	32	23.35
Faster access to information	34	24.81
Access to a wider range of information	29	21.16
Any other (Please Specify)	00	00
Total	137	100.00

* It is a multiple-choice question*

5.2.9 Problems faced while using digital resources

Table 11 Shows that, 30(22.72%) of respondents have faced problem of 'lack of timing', followed by 18(18.93%) of students indicate 'Lack of 'Hardware' is the main problem while using electronic resources. 10(11.11%) and 16(17.78%) of respondents are facing 'lack of Hardware and Software' problems respectively.

Table 11
Problems faced while using digital resources.

Problems	No of response	Percentage
Lack of Hardware	25	18.93
Lack of Software	20	15.15
Lack of training	22	16.66
Lack of information on digital resources	20	15.15
Lack of operating funds	15	11.36
Lack of timing	30	22.72
Total	132	100.00

* It is a multiple-choice question. *

5.2.10 Standard of academic work without digital resources.

The respondents were requested to indicate the standard of academic work without digital resources for finding required information. Table 12 shows that, majority 57(57.00%) of respondents 'Agreed' that, their academic work would suffer, without digital resources followed by 25.00% of the respondents have 'not agreed' and less percentage (18.00%) of respondents have not given their opinion.

Table 12
Standard of academic work without digital resources.

Opinion	No. of respondents	Percentage
Agree	57	57.00
Not agree	25	25.00
Don't know	18	18.00
Total	100	100.00

6. Findings of the study.

- ✘ Of the total (100) respondents 30 (30.00%) of the students visit their library 'everyday' and 55 (39.28%) of the respondents indicate their library has Internet facility and 25.00% indicate CD-ROMs are available in their library.
- ✘ Of the total 30.00, 43.00% and 23.00% of the respondents use CD-ROMs Internet and online database 'Everyday' respectively. However 27.00% of the students are using OPAC' once in a week'. 20.00% and 25.00% respondents use e-journals and e-books 'everyday' respectively.
- ✘ Majority of the respondents (86.00%) is using Internet service in their library. at the same time 50.00% of respondents prefer to use 'Google' search engine.
- ✘ Majority 60(34.09%) of the respondents are using digital resources 'for finding relevant information in their subject' field.
- ✘ 38(31.93%) of the respondents learned through 'Trial and error' method of acquiring the necessary skill to use digital resources.
- ✘ 58(58.00%) of the respondents indicate the information available in the digital resources is 'Always' adequate at the same time 44(36.36%)of the respondents stated that, 'too much information is retrieved' is the main barrier to use digital resources.
- ✘ Majority 42(30.65%) of respondents stated 'access to a current up to date information' is a benefit of using digital resources. Similarly 34(24.81%) expressed 'faster access to information' is the advantage.
- ✘ Majority 30(22.72%) of respondents have expressed 'lack of timing', is the main problem while using electronic resources.
- ✘ 57(57.00%) of respondents 'Agreed' and 25.00% of the respondents did 'not agree' that, academic work would suffer, without digital resources for finding their required information.

7. Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study the following suggestions are recommended to improve the use of digital resources among the students.

1. The authority must conduct training programmes for students regarding how to use the digital resources effectively.
2. Awareness should be created to use e-journals and e-books to obtain current information.
3. More computer/terminals should be installed in the library for the benefit of the students.
4. Authority should provide more funds to acquire the digital resources for the benefit of the users.

8. Conclusion

The digital resources play a vital role in all the field of human life. These have rapidly changed the way of seeking and disseminating information. It is clear from the study that, the students of BIET College have developed their academic career. The speed of availability and the ease of accessibility of information make the students to use digital resources more frequently. This study helps the librarian to know the importance of digital resources in academic environment.

9. References

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