Usage of Digital Resources by the Faculty Members of Medical College Libraries in the Central Kerala

K.Vijayakumar [1]; B.Mahadevan [2]; Saravanaraj.S,[3]

Assistant Professor (S.G) DLIS Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, India [1];

UGC-Post Doctoral Fellow, DLIS, [2]; Ph.D Research Scholar DLIS [3]

dr.vijay_1973@rediffmail.com [1]; *dmaha32@gmail.com*[2]; *saravarajsivaraj@gmail.com* [3]

ABSTRACT

 An medical college library aims to provide wide an efficient information sources and services to the medical professionals as well as students and user community ,This study focuses the faculty members of medical colleges to gather information for their general knowledge purpose, this study found that pen drive and OPAC used by the more faculty members . This paper discuses the use digital resources by the faculty members of medical college libraries in central kerala.

Keywords: *Digital resources, OPAC, pen drive etc.*

1. INTRODUCTION

 There have been tremendous changes in library services due to the advancement in science and technology and the changing needs of the people.The services rendered with the help of information technology are faster and more effective. Moreover, it creates faith and confidence about the products and services of an organization among its customers.

The magnitude growth of literature creates problems in processing, storing and retrieving of information. This situation demands the usage of new tools and technologies to increase the speed and efficiency of transmission of information. So libraries are completed to plan, organize and communicate the huge quantities of information according to the needs of users with the help of digital resources.

India has largest number of Medical Colleges in the world. With the rapid advancement in the area of information and communication technology, information retrieval using digital resources has become a common method for provision of medical literature. The digitized information has immense scope and solution to clinical questions as well as academic brilliance in health arena.

Review of literature

lucky oji akpojotor cln. (2017) have studied aims at investigating the awareness and usage of electronic information resources among postgraduate students of library and information science in Southern Nigeria. The descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The census sampling technique was adopted for this study. Thus, the entire population of three hundred and seventy-five (375) postgraduate students of library and information science in Southern Nigeria were used as the sample for this study. The questionnaire tagged: Awareness and Usage of Electronic Information Resources by Postgraduate Students of Library and Information Science Questionnaire (AUEIRPSLISQ) was used as instrument for data collection. Four research questions were answered and two null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The simple percent statistical tool was used to answer the research questions and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMCC) for testing the hypotheses. The results obtained revealed that postgraduate students of library and information science are quite aware and highly use electronic information resources. The study also reported that postgraduate LIS students are skilled

in the use of electronic information resources. Based on the findings the study concluded that electronic information resorces are essential tools for empowering postgraduate students of library and information science in Southern Nigeria.

Almarabeh T et al. (2016) has analysed on awareness and usage of computer and internet among medical faculties' students at the University of Jordan. This study aimed to ascertain the computer and internet literacy level of medical faculties' students. The result brings that most medical students have average and advance knowledge on the basic use of computer and internet. They concluded the study with the findings that ICT can be a useful tool in medical education but the lack of time, internet connectivity and resources is still a serious constraint.

Yannis K Valtis et al. (2016) has discussed about an EBM programme providing free access to an online clinical resources to health workers in resource-limited settings. This study aimed to analyse Up-to-date, a leading evidence based clinical resource and the cost barrier to access the same. The authors suggested to enhance the evidence based clinical resource access include removal of cost barriers as well as technological barriers, such as internet connectivity.

Fuchs and Woessman (2014) used international data from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). They showed that while the bivariate correlation between the availability of ICT and students' performance is strongly and significantly positive, the correlation becomes small and insignificant when other student environment characteristics are taken into consideration.

Li et al. (2003) pointed out: "First, web-based instruction presents information in a non-linear style, allowing students to explore new information via browsing and cross-referencing activities. Second, web-based teaching supports active learning processes emphasized by constructivist theory. Third, web-based education is enhanced understanding through improved visualization and finally, the convenience, it could be used any time, at any place".

Objective of the Study

- To assess the current scenario of the use of digital resources in the medical college libraries.
- To identify the different types of digital resources for information retrieval in medical college libraries.

- To evaluate the infrastructure facilities for digital resources in medical college libraries.
- To assess information Access Pattern of users of digital resources in medical college libraries.
- To compare the infrastructure facilities for the digital resources in Government and Private Medical College.
- To assess the changing role of librarians in medical college libraries.

Hypotheses

- There is a significant difference in gender wise distribution of respondents' frequency of digital resources of medical college libraries.
- There is a significant difference in designation wise distribution of respondents' frequency of digital resources for information retrieval in medical college libraries.
- There is no significant difference in using the purpose of visit to the library.
- There is a significant difference in frequency of utilization of electronic resources.
- There is a significant difference in frequency of using utilization of E-resources for Database.

Methodology

There have been many methods and techniques are available for data collection. Among them questionnaire survey is formed to be very useful techniques for collecting data. The researcher has distributed 200 questionnaires to the faculty members of the medical colleges of central Kerala. However the investigator received responses from the 150 faculty members only.

Data Collection Method

In order to accomplish the objective of the study review of related literature studies and questionnaire surveys of users of medical college central Kerala. The data were collected during the month of June-August 2017. Managing the non-response from the respondents was a challenge at the time of data collection.

Statistical tools adopted for the study

This study adopted simple percentage method.

Analysis and Interpretation

This study deals with the analysis of data collected and tabulating them in an orderly fashion. Here the research has interpreted each table describing the findings. Few diagrams has been annexed for geographical representation of the analysis of data.

Table 1

Distribution of respondents by gender wise

Sl.No.	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	98	**65.33**
2.	Female	52	**34.67**
	Total	150	100

Table 1. Shows that the distribution of respondents gender wise in this study 98(65.33) percent of the respondents are male. 52(34.67) of the respondents are the female. It could be seen clearly from the above discussion, majority of them are belongs to male respondents.

Table 2

Distribution of respondents according to designation

Sl.No.	Designation wise	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Assistant professor	118	**78.66**
2.	Associate professor	20	**13.34**
3.	Professor	12	**8.00**
	Total	150	100

The above table shows that distribution of respondents according to designation wise. Among the respondents 78.66% are Assistant Professor, 13.34% of them are Associate Professor, and 8.00% of them are Professor. It is found that more than 75% of them are belongs to Assistant Professor Category.

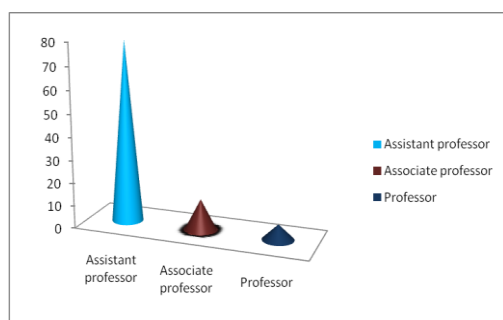Figure 1.2 **Distribution of respondents according to designation**

Table 3

Purpose of visit to the library

Sl.No.	Purpose of visit	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Reading newspaper	25	**16.66**
2.	Employment news	10	**6.66**
3.	General knowledge	40	**26.67**
4.	Searching For Exam	32	**21.33**
5.	Academic improvement	25	**16.66**
6.	Prepare competitive exams	10	**6.66**
7.	Others	8	**5.33**
	Total	150	100

Table 3 shows that purpose of visit to the library, It is evident that 26.67% of the library for general knowledge purpose, 21.33% of the respondents visit to the library for searching exam purpose, more than 16.67% of the respondents visit to the library for reading newspaper and academic improvement more than 6.66% of them visit the library for library for reading employment news and prepare competitive exams only 5.33% of the others are visit the library. It is found that more than 25% of the respondents visit the library for the purpose of gathering general knowledge information.

Table 4

Designation wise Respondents, Utilization of Electronic Resources

Sl.No.	E-Resources	Assistant professor	Associate professor	professor	Total
1.	CD-ROM	10 (71.42)	3 (21.42)	1 (7.14)	**14** (9.33)
2.	OPAC	20 (86.95)	2 (8.69)	1 (4.34)	**23** (15.34)
3.	INTERNET	10 (55.56)	4 (22.22)	4 (22.22)	**18** (12.00)
4.	E-database	15 (78.94)	3 (15.78)	1 (5.26)	**19** (12.67)
5.	E-books	15 (78.94)	3 (15.78)	1 (5.26)	**19** (12.67)
6.	E-journal	20 (86.95)	2 (8.69)	1 (4.34)	**23** (15.34)
7.	E-magazine	8 (80)	1 (10)	1 (10)	**10** (6.66)
8.	Pen drive	20 (83.33)	2 (8.33)	2 (8.33)	**24** (16.00)
	Total	**118** **(78.67)**	**20** **(13.33)**	**12** **(8.00)**	150 (100)

Table 4 shows that utilization of electronic resources .It is evident that 78.67% of the Assistant professor use the electronic resources .more than 16% of them use pen drive, E-journal and E-databases, More than 15% of them use E-journals,

E-database, E-books and Internet use was more than 12% of them respectively. Only 9.33% of the user use the CDRom.It could be seen clearly from the above discussion pen drive, E-journals and OPAC is highly used by the respondents.

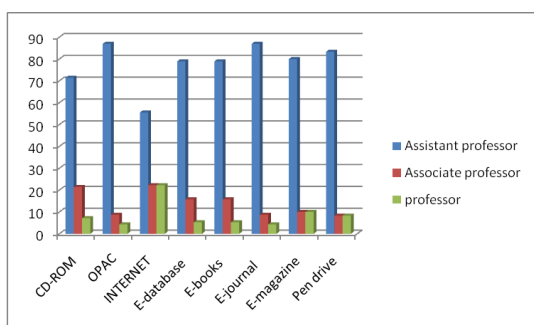Figure 1.4 **Designation wise Respondents, Utilization of Electronic Resources**

Table 5

Awareness Level of Respondents about the Databases

Sl.No.	Data base	Assistant professor	Associate professor	professor	Total
1.	PUBMED	25 (83.33)	3 (10)	2 (6.66)	**30 (20.00)**
2.	MEDLINE	5 (50)	2 (20)	3 (30)	**10 (6.66)**
3.	MEDSCAPE	17 (80.95)	3 (14.28)	1 (4.76)	**21 (14.00)**
4.	ACCESS MEDLINE	15 (83.33)	2 (11.11)	1 (5.55)	**18 (12.00)**
5.	BMJ	16 (88.88)	2 (11.11)	-	**18 (12.00)**
6.	SCIENCE DIRECT	15 (75)	3 (15)	2 (10)	**20 (13.33)**
7.	SPRINGER	15 (75)	3 (15)	2 (10)	**20 (13.33)**
8.	WEB OF SCIENCE	10 (76.92)	2 (15.38)	1 (7.69)	**13 (8.66)**
	Total	**118 (78.67)**	**20 (13.33)**	**12 (8.00)**	**150 (100)**

Figure 1.5 **Awareness Level of Respondents about the Databases**
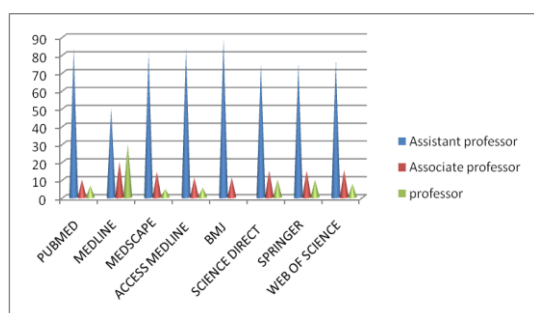
The table 5 shows that more than 20% of the user aware about PUBMED, more than 14% of the user

aware about MEDSCAPE, more than 13.33% of the user aware about SCIENCE DIRECT and SPRINGER, More than 12% of the user aware about ACCESS MEDLINE and BMJ, more than 8.66% of the user aware about WEB of SCIENCE, only 6.66% of them know about the MEDLINE data base for their needs. So It could be seen clearly from the above discussion more number of medical faculty members are concentrate PUBMED Data base for their use.

Findings

- Majority of the respondents are belongs to male.
- Most of the faculty visit the library for the purpose of update their knowledge.
- More than 75% of them are Assistant professor Category.
- Utilization of E-resources shows that, pendrive, E-journals and OPAC resources highly used by the respondents.
- More number of medical faculty members are concentrate PUBMED Database for their use.

Conclusion

E-resources playing vital role in present day environment. So also in the library too. It is the prime duty of in the concern authorities to selected and access the relevant e-resources for the benefit of medical faculty members .The male respondents top the position in their overall problem in their teaching and learning process and female respondents lag behind them. The digital resources are essential tools for empowering medical faculty members of medical colleges located in central Kerala.

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