RELEVANCE OF USABILITY OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AMONG CONSORTIUM BASED ENGINEERING LIBRARIES IN BANGALORE SOUTH– A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

With the instigation of most recent know-how, the engineering libraries have been developed with maximum usage of consortium based electronic resources to its stakeholders. The current day stakeholders namely students, faculties, research scholars, library professional are in great need of information from required electronic resources at the least possible time, this is where the library professionals and the scholarly publishers play an important role in efficiently disseminating the information to various stakeholders among their institution. This paper is a case study on relevance of usability of electronic resources among the engineering libraries. This paper highlights and facilitates various electronic resources that were subscribed through the consortium by the engineering colleges institution, which have been efficiently disseminated among their stakeholders through the library.

Keywords: E-Resources, Usability, Utilization of E- Resources, Consortium.

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1.   Introduction

In the current academic library environment, information not only regarding books but also the electronic resources that facilitates the readers is vast and need to reach all the stakeholders in the institution. Library professionals play a major in executing the available information and access to the fullest extend to all the stakeholders present in the institution. This paper is a case study which highlights and facilitates various electronic resources subscribed through consortium and institution.

2.   Review of Literature

In the paper usage of electronic resources in DRDO institutes the author A L Moorthy, Ankurpant1, speaks about the resource sharing amongst libraries that has aimed in overcoming various budget constraints. The author 1, has taken up an methodical study about the DRDO e-journals consortium, its issue and concerns related to library consortia. The author also highlighted about the consortium strength and electronic resource sharing and proved round the clock availability for their readers.

In the paper usage of electronic resources by engineering graduated of govt engineering college libraries in Kerala, the author Jinu 2, examines the availability of e- resources and determined the usage of e- resources by the engineering graduates of govt engineering college libraries. The author 2, speaks further about the e- resources availability and its usage by the readers are very low. The author also highlights also highlights the lack of insufficient numbers of computers to use e- resources. The author 2, suggests that the management needs to provide good infrastructure with systems to utilize availability e- resources.

In this paper author 3, provides an insight about the usage of e- resources among the UG students. The author study speaks about the awareness the students had in using electronic resources, the methods was the survey questionnaire method. The findings and recommendations made by the author 3, was the students required orientation programme in utilization of electronic resources effectively.

The author 4, aimed to find out the utilization of electronic information resources in Vikarama Simhapuri university library by PG students. The author 4, explored in identifying the availability of electronic resources and how to make the same use by the students. In this study quantitative and qualitative methods were used for data collection. The study also focused that there was a lack of computer skills and internet connectivity. The author 4, concluded that measures needs to be taken to promote usage of electronic resources.

In the paper use of electronic resources by library professional the author 5, speaks about the use of electronic resources by library science professionals with respect to 19th refresher course. The author 5, studies about different types of electronic resources used by the library science professional and their influence on electric resources on academic efficiency. The author 5, has used the questionnaire method to collect data. The findings author 5, has seen is many professionals are mainly depended on print media resources for carrying out their research projects. Based on these studies this papers objectives and methods are exhibited in the subsequently.

3.   Objectives

1.   To determine the awareness of electronic resources through consortium.

2.   To identify the readers skill in exploring electronic resources.

3.   To identify the frequency of using electronic resources.

4.   To identify the usability among readers using electronic resources.

4. Methods Used

Based on the studies carried out by various authors in the literature review, questionnaire method was used across various engineering libraries in south Bangalore. There were 500 questionnaire distributed to gather opinions from the stakeholders. The discussions are further exhibited in subsequent sections in form of graphical percentage exhibits.

5. Data Interpretation

Table- 1- Age group of the respondents

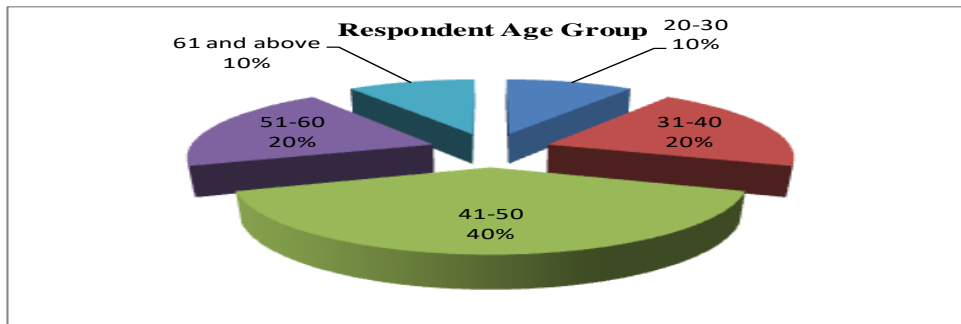| Age	Percentage
20-30	10
31-40	20
41-50	40
51-60	20
61 and Above	10

Figure -1 Respondent age group

From the above table-1 and figure -1 it is seen that respondents who has given response for the survey are the age group of 41-50 years, which is 40%. It is seen that the awareness about the e-resource is there among the experienced faculties, and the students it is the initial stage of getting accustomed with the usage of e- resource.

Table – 2 Awareness of VTU E- Resource Consortium

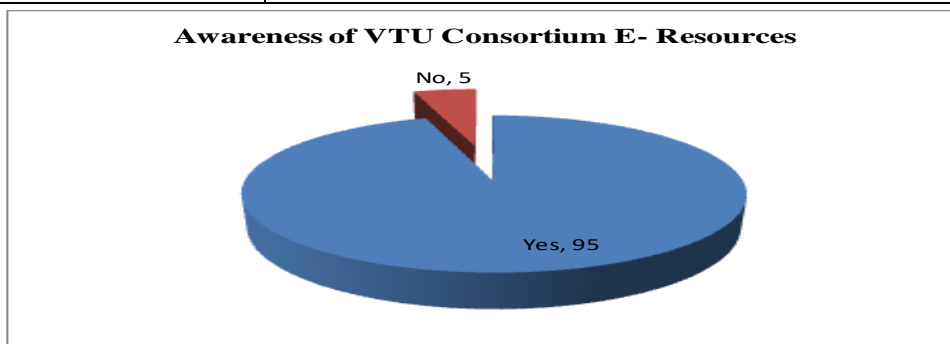| Awareness	Percentage
Yes	95
No	5

Figure-2 Awareness of VTU Consortium E- Resources

Readers namely students, faculties, research scholars are aware of the e-resource, the percentage shown is 95% of the readers. 5% is shown as no could be they are now aware of electronic resource usage, and might be hesitant to enquire the same.

Table -3 Usability of E- Resources

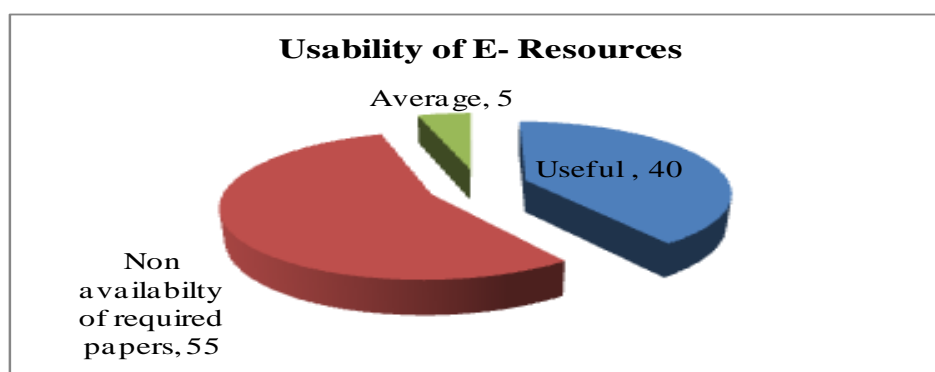| Usage	Percentage
Useful	40
Non Availability of Required Papers	55
Average	05

Figure-3 Usability of E- Resource

Usability of electronic resource it is seen in figure 3,that 55% of the readers have responded non-availability of required papers as these e- journals were from consortium and these resources were minimum due to which the readers could not get enough journal papers which were required.40% responded as useful and 5% responded as average.

Table -4 Readers Skills in Exploring E- Resources

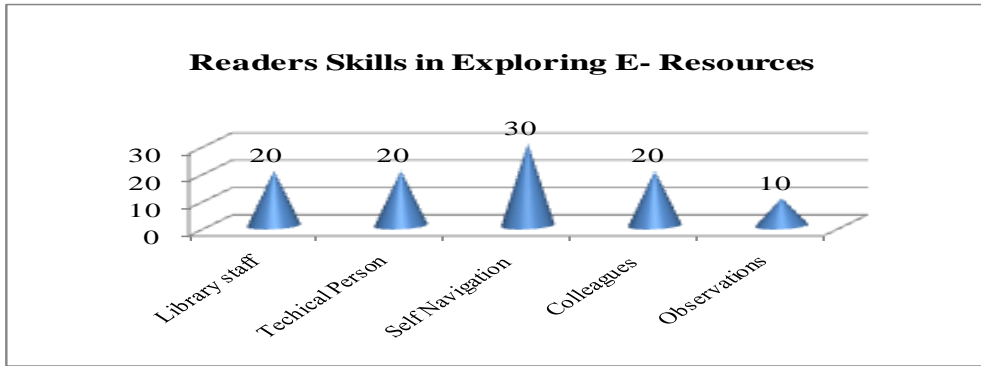| Skill	Percentage
Library Staff	20
Technical Person	20
Self Navigation	30
Colleagues	20
Observations	10

Figure -4 Readers skill in exploring e- resources

Readers skill in exploring e- resources in various ways were quite good, as all methods like library staff, technical persons, self navigation etc, the response were good. Self navigation for e-resources was 30% which is the highest compared to other skills adopted.

Table 5- Location for accessing E- Resources

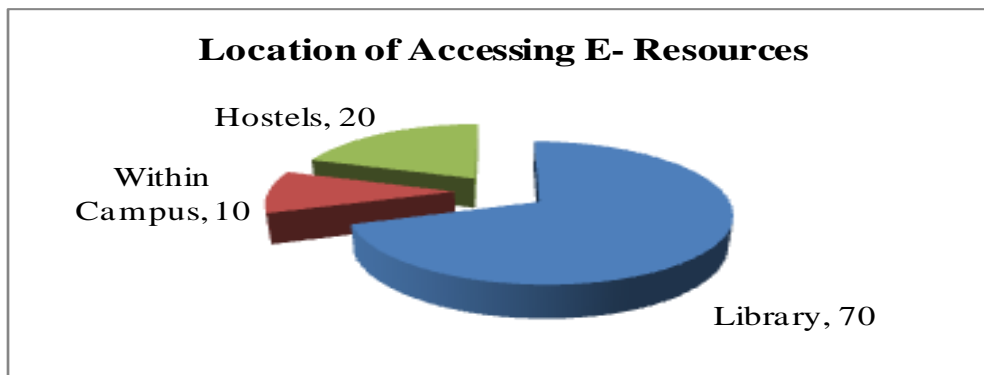| Location	Percentage
Library	70
Within Campus	10
Hostels	20

Figure -5 Locations for accessing e-resources.

Library was the central location for the readers accessing e- resources which is 70% as the library is open till late night there are many students using library. Hostels have responded 20% where they will be accessing all the resources through wi-fi from the hostels.

Table – 6 Frequency of Using E- Resources

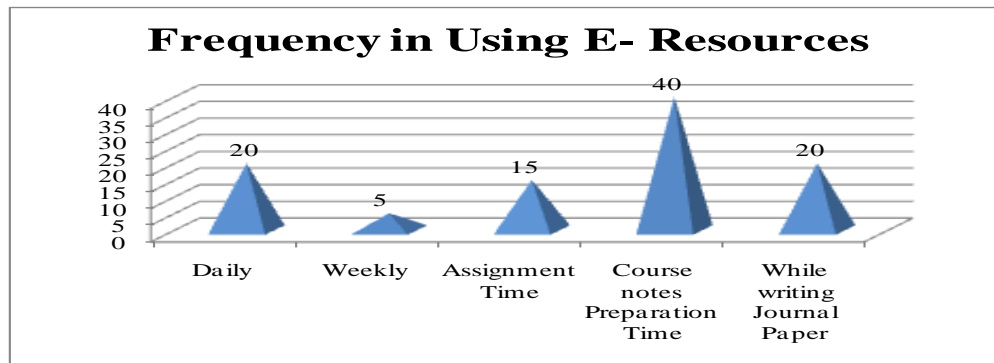| Frequency	Percentage
Daily	20
Weekly	05
Assignment Time	15
Course Notes Preparation Time	40
While Writing Journal Paper	20

Figure – 6 Frequency in using E- resources

Frequency of using e- resources in table 6, figure 6, indicates faculties are constantly using e-resources for course notes preparation which highlights 40% and these are regular readers to library for browsing journals. The other respondents were using library daily, weekly or while writing journal papers.

Table- 7 Type of resources used

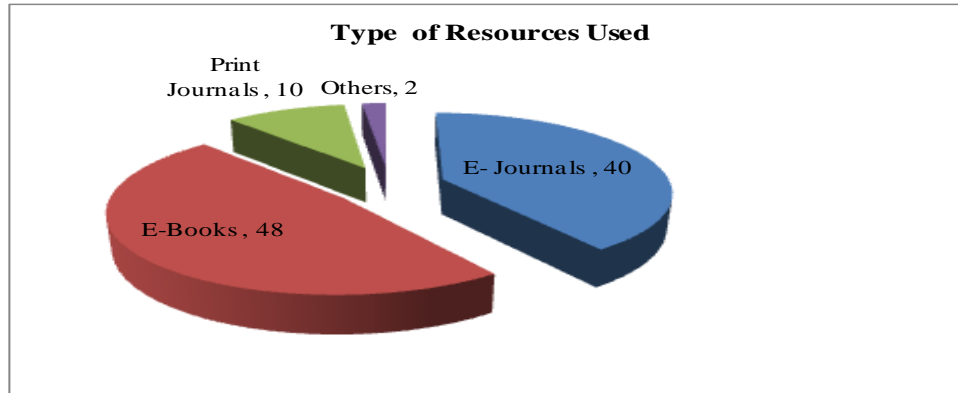| Resources	Percentage
E-Journals	40
E-Books	48
Print Journals	10
Others	02

Figure -7 Type of resources used

In Table 7 figure 7, type of resources used are e- books which has 48% where it has been used to compare to other journals which indicates 40% print journals 10% and other resources 2%. To conclude readers are aware of utilizing e-books more than any other resources, which can be read any where any time.

Table -8 Availability of Various E- Resources

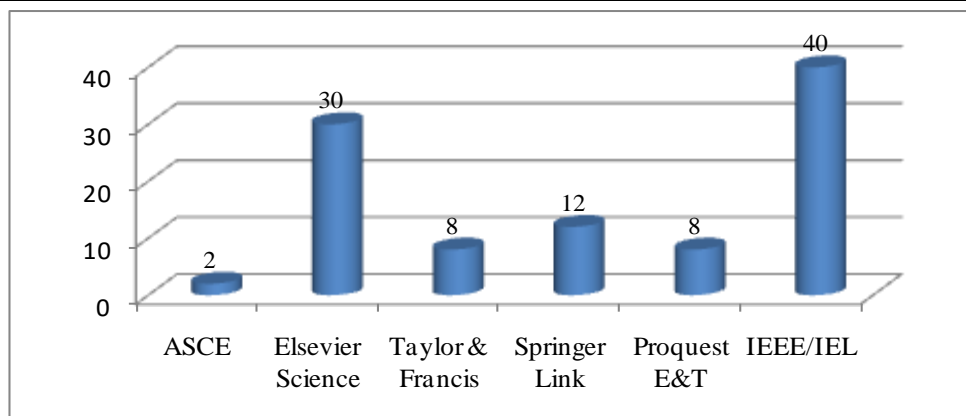| Publishers	Percentage
ASCE	02
Elsevier Science	30
Taylor & Francis	08
Springer Link	12
Proquest E&T	08
IEEE /IEL	40

Figure 8 E- resources Availability

From the above table 8 and figure 8, we is evident that IEEE 40% and Elsevier Science journals 30% are been used by many stakeholders across the institutes, the reason could be the required journals are found in products which satisfies their research and curriculum needs. The other products need to be promoted more as the readers might not be aware or might not give the appropriate key word search.

6.   Recommendation

1.   Based on this study, it is observed that e- resources are been used at a higher side of age group between 41-50 years, which shows maximum by the faculties members which can be either for class, journal publications or for research work.

2.   It is also observed that there were many journal titles which were available through consortium, for which there should be a sample survey carried out to various for journals need in colleges covered under consortium.

3.   Stakeholders are keep in exploring various e- resources and scholarly journals, which has benefitted them and is aware on browsing their required journals and scholarly papers.

7.   Conclusion

This paper highlights and facilitates various e-resources subscribed through consortium and procured individually. The present day stakeholders are in great need of e- resources namely journals and e-books and other related materials at the least possible time, this is where the information professionals and scholarly publishers and consortium play a vital role in facilitating the needs of their stakeholders.

8.   References

[1]   A L Moorthy; Anukurpant 2012. "Assessing the use of electronic information resources in DRDO institute: An analytical study of DRDO e- journals consortium", Annals of library and information studies, pg 194-203, and vol 59.

[2]   Jinu Sudhakaran, 2014, "Electronic resource by engineering graduates of Govt engineering college libraries in Kerala", Conference Proceedings Reaching the unreached SALIS, pg 234-237.

[3]   Vahida Beegam, 2014, "Skills in using e- resources among undergraduate students at Malappuram district, Kerala, A Study". Conference Proceedings Reaching the unreached SALIS, pg 242-247.

[4]   Papaiah O, Narasimha Murthy, 2016, "Survey on the utilization of electronic information resources by post graduate students at Vikarama Simhapuri University, Creativity, Innovation and Transformation in libraries", Conference Proceedings SALIS, pg 193-196.

[5]   Kumara B; Rajalaxmi, A G,2014, "Use of electronic resources by library professionals of 19th refresher course, A survey on UGC ASC university of Kerala", Conference Proceedings Reaching the unreached SALIS, pg 268-273.