

A STUDY ON LEVELS OF USE OF LIBRARY E RESOURCE FACILITIES BY STUDENTS OF KERALA UNIVERSITY

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INTRODUCTION

Electronic resources are commonly called as e-resource which can be accessed through the computer or other related devices. E-resources give access to information that might be restricted to the user normally because of geographical boundaries. E-resources also provide fast and easy access to current information and are often globally updated. Through different search techniques, e-resources provide extensive links to explore additional resources or related content. They are considered as the most important resource of research, teaching, and training. Thus most of the academic libraries of the present day provide e-resources for research and higher education.

PROFILE OF KERALA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Kerala University Library (KUL), established in 1942, is the oldest and biggest university library in Kerala and is situated adjacent to the University Senate Hall campus in the Thiruvananthapuram city. It stocks over 3,50,000 books and subscribes to nearly 500 journals/ periodicals/ magazines. It includes 169496 text books, 35287 reference books, 214 e-books, many e-journals, digital database, resource CD and videos etc. It also offers digital information services such as UGC Infonet. Among its special collections, the Kerala Studies is a unique one. The special collections also include Women's Studies, Government Publications, General Biographies, UN and World Bank Publications, bound volumes of newspapers and journals and rare books. It is the only library in Kerala which serves as a depository of UN and World Bank publications. The library is currently in the process of digitizing its rare collections.

The University in Travancore, founded in 1937 had at its disposal the Trivandrum Public Library until a separate library was started in the present Arts College building. This was soon shifted to the eastern side of the University College (which was then under direct control of the University), in 1946. The present building was constructed with UGC assistance of 10 lakhs and started functioning in September 1962. Prof. K. A. Isaac, a student of Prof. S. R. Ranganathan, was appointed as the Full time librarian in 1959. He continued to lead the library until 1980 when Sri K.C. John succeeded him. Prof Ranganathan's influence on the Kerala University Library is still extant in the form of usage of colon system of cataloging devised by him. The Kerala University Library is complemented with a number of specialised Department Libraries and also Campus Library at Karyavattom and Study Centre Libraries at Alappuzha, Kollam and Pandalam. The University Institutes of Technology (UITs), University Teacher Education Centres (UTECS), and University College of Engineering (UCE) also have specialized libraries.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

1. To find out the type and usage of e-resources used by the PG students of Kerala University.
2. To determine the factors encouraging the use of e-resources by PG students of Kerala University.
3. To identify the problems faced by the students in accessing the e-resources.

METHODOLOGY

A survey method has been adopted and a structured questionnaire was distributed to the 355 PG students of Kerala University. Out of 355 questionnaires only 293 questionnaires were received back after filling the data and the data was entered in MS – Excel and was coded and imported into SPSS for Analysis.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Table 1 Distribution of respondents and rate of response

Respondents	No. of Questionnaire distributed	No. of Questionnaire received back	Rate of Responses
Male	185	157	53.59%
Female	170	136	46.41%
Total	355	293	100%

The above table reveals the details of distribution of questionnaire and the rate of response. The analysis presents that in total 355 questionnaire were distributed to the respondents among them 293 were received back. Out of 293 there were 157 (53.59%) male and 136 (46.41%) female and they make the sample for the study.

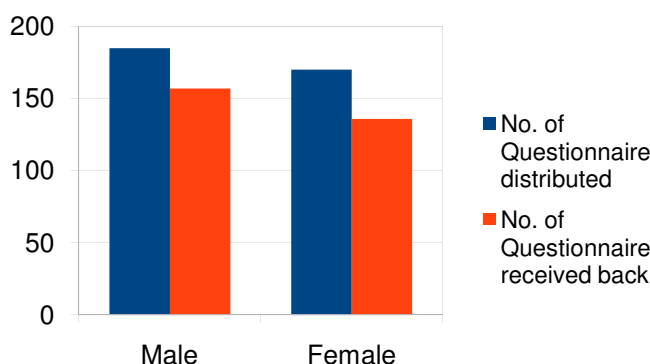


Table 2 Different types of E-Resources

Sl. No.	Types of E-resources	Respondents	Percentage
1	OPAC	159	54.27%
2	E-Books	92	31.39%
3	E-Journals	111	37.89%
4	E-Theses and Dissertation	74	25.26%
5	E-Newspapers	189	64.50%
6	Open Access Repository	64	21.84%
7	Online Database	86	29.35%
8	Web Resources	156	53.24%
9	Institutional Repository	65	22.18%
10	Library Website	194	66.21%

The different types of E-resources used by the respondents. Out of 293 respondents, 194 (66.21%) prefer to use Library website that provides access to various E-Resources, followed by 189 (64.50%) E-Newspapers, followed by 159 (54.27%) OPAC. About 65 (22.18%) for the institutional repository and 64 (21.84%) for Open access repository.

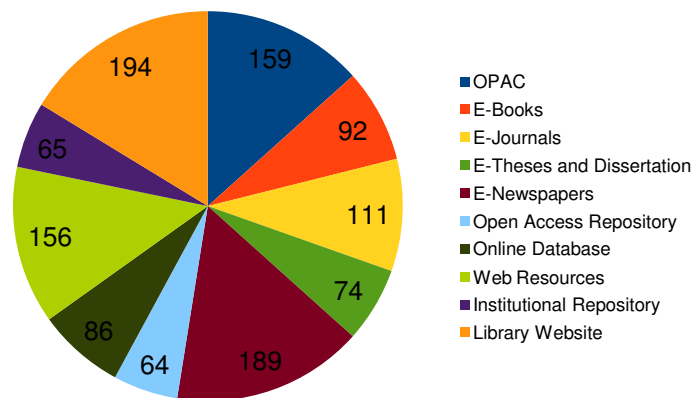
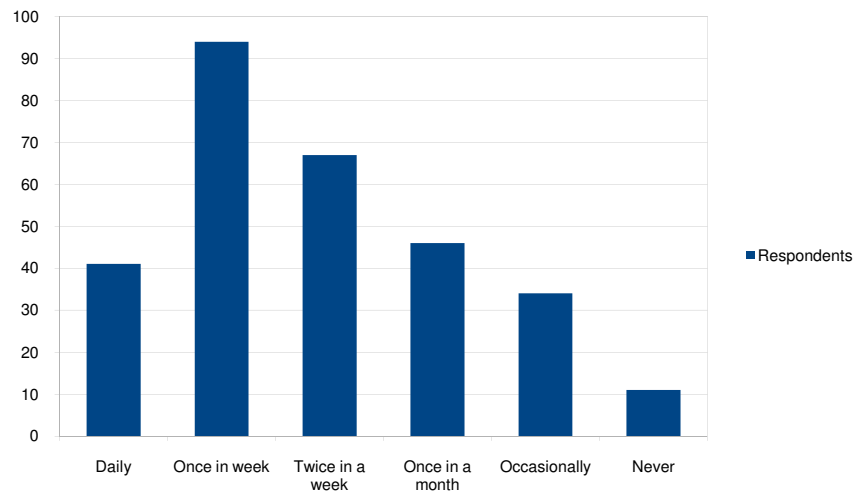


Table 3 Frequency of using E-Resources

Sl. No.	Frequency of using E-resources	Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	41	13.99%
2	Once in week	94	32.08%
3	Twice in a week	67	22.87%
4	Once in a month	46	15.69%
5	Occasionally	34	11.60%
6	Never	11	3.76%
Total		293	100%

Table 3 Analyze the frequency of using E-Resources among the PG Students of Kerala University 94 (32.08%) respondents used e-resources once in a week, twice in a week 67 (22.87%), once in a month 46 (15.69%) occasionally 34 (11.60%) and 11 (3.76%) never used E-Resources.

**Table 4** Factors encouraging to use E-Resources

Sl. No.	Frequency of using E-resources	Respondents	Percentage
1	Easy and fast access	172	58.70%
2	Access to a wider range of information	218	74.40%
3	To write assignments	196	66.89%
4	For making presentations	177	60.40%
5	Research work	211	72.01%
6	Examination	182	62.11%
7	Knowledge updating	179	61.09%

Table 4 highlights the different factors encouraged the respondents to use the E-resources. Majority of the respondents i.e. 218 (74.40%) agreed that access to wider range of information is one of the important factor that encouraged the respondents to use the e-resources, 211 (72.01%) research work, 196 (66.89%) to write assignments, 182 (62.11%) examination, 179 (61.09%) knowledge updating, 177 (60.4%) for making presentation, 172 (58.70%) easy and fast access.

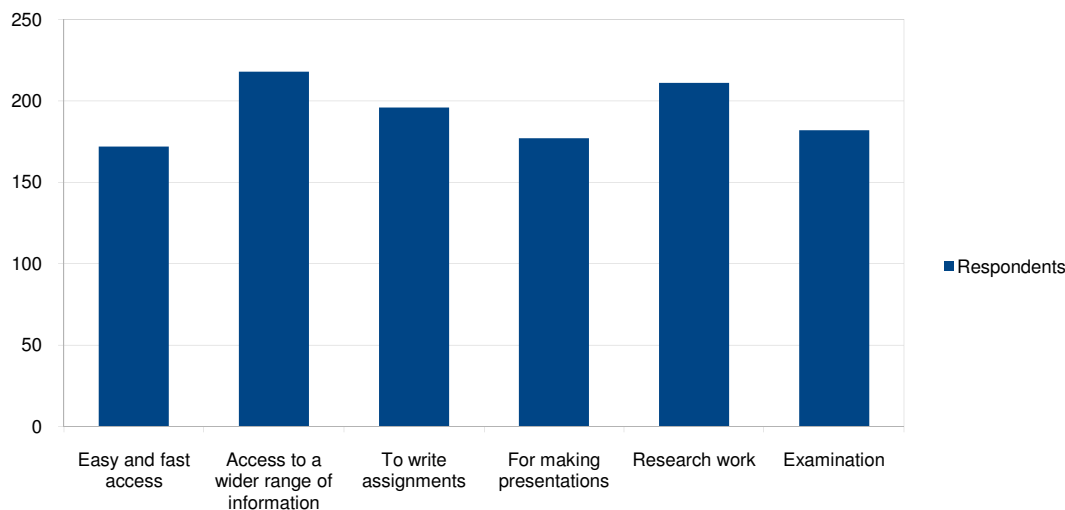


Table 5 Problems encountered in accessing E-Resources

Sl. No.	Problems Encountered	Respondents	Percentage
1	Time Consuming in searching and finding	54	18.43%
2	Lack of awareness	94	32.08%
3	Non accessibility of E-resources	72	24.58%
4	Licensing	66	22.52%
5	Electricity failure	41	13.99%
6	Difficulty to read from computer screen	77	26.28%
7	Scattered data	61	20.81%
8	Lack of searching skills	112	38.22%
9	Lack of latest computer facility	89	30.38%

Table 5 shows the various problems faced by the respondents while using the e-resources from the library. The table clearly reveals that 112 (38.22%) respondents don't have searching skill for finding e-resources, lack of awareness 94 (32.08%), lack of latest computer facility 89 (30.38%), difficulty to read from computer screen 77 (26.28%), non accessibility of e-resources 72 (24.58%) are some of the problems encountered by the respondents while accessing the e-resources.

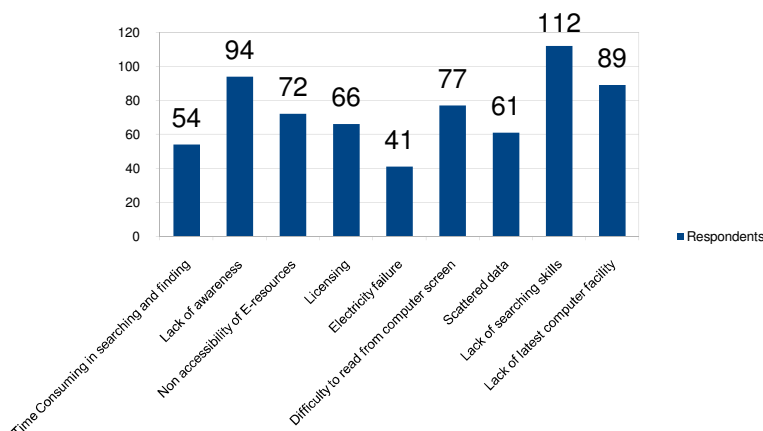
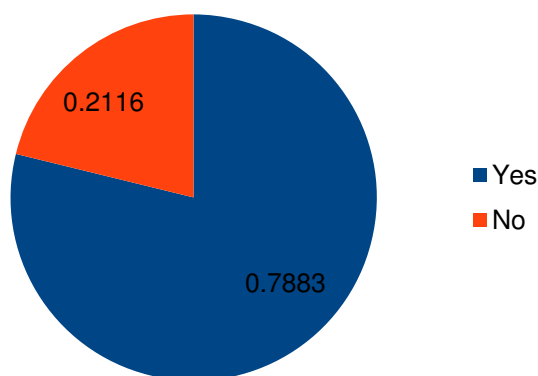


Table 6 Satisfaction level of using E-Resources by the students

Options	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	231	78.83%
No	62	21.16%
Total	293	100%

Table 6 indicates the response of respondents satisfaction of using e-resources. Majority of the respondents 231 (78.83%) agreed that they were satisfied with use of e-resources of Kerala university library and only 62 (21.16%) were not satisfied with the use.



FINDINGS

- Majority of the respondents used 194 (66.21%) library website as the most preferred e-resources.
- It was clear from the study that out of 299 respondents only 94 (32.08%) used e-resources once in a week and 11 (3.76%) respondents never used e-resources from Kerala University library.
- Eleven respondents never used any e-resources from the library.
- Majority of the respondents agreed that access to a wider range of information is one of the important factors that encouraged the respondents to use the e-resources.
- Some of the respondents don't have the searching skills and 41 (13.99%) had the opinion that electricity failure is one of the important problems they faced while accessing the e-resources.
- In spite of various problems majority of the respondents were satisfied with the e-resources in the Kerala university library.

SUGGESTIONS

- Awareness among the students should be created to use e-resources to obtain the latest information.
- Guidance should be provided to use the resources.
- Should facilitate with current technology.
- Regular up gradation of desktops.
- There should be back up battery power and cloud storage facilities.

CONCLUSIONS

The study found out that the students were aware of the e-resources and they used them for their academic purposes. The e-resources have brought number of benefit to the PG students such as easy and fast access, access to current and fast information, to write assignments, for research work. The study result has shown that lack of awareness, lack of searching skills, insufficient latest computer facilities, inadequate power supply in the library were discovered as the main factors against the effective use of the e-resources in the Kerala University

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