



## UTILIZATION OF E-RESOURCES BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS AT VINAYAKA MISSIONS MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, KARAİKAL. PUDUCHERRY (U.T): A STUDY

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### Abstract

Today we are living in information era availability of e-resources in medical education is very common. But their proper and maximum use is a subject for discussion. The present paper examines the existence of various e-resource databases in Medical Library. The study also highlights the preferences and importance of e resources among the faculty and students.

### Introduction

Advances in computer applications during the past few decades have brought radical changes in the way information is stored, organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed. The application of computers in information processing has brought several products and services to the panorama. The Internet and the Web are constantly influencing the development of new modes of scholarly communication; their potential for delivering goods is quite vast, as they overcome successfully the geographical limitations associated with the print media. Publication and its delivery time have been drastically reduced. This important fact is convincing many libraries to move towards digital e-resources, which are found to be less expensive and more useful for easy access. This is especially helpful to distant learners who have limited time to access the libraries from outside by dial-up access to commonly available electronic resources, mainly CD-ROM, OPACs and Internet, which are replacing the print media.

Libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent years both in their collection development and in their service structure. Over the last several years, a significant transformation has been noticed in collection development policies and practices. Print medium is increasingly giving way to the electronic form of materials.

### Objectives

The main objective of this study is to analyze dependency of the faculty and students on e-resources, the perceived utilization of the e-resources on their academic competence and problems faced by them while using the e-resources. This survey was particularly conducted to assess the benefits of the e-resources over conventional sources of information.

Some of the major objectives are to:

- Know the different types of electronic resources and services available in the VMMC & H library.
- Study the different types of electronic resources used by faculty and students.
- Study the purpose and frequency of using the electronic resources and services available in the library,
- Locate the barrier faced by the faculty and students, while accessing and using the electronic resources in the library,
- Study the use of electronic resources and services on the academic work of the faculty and students.

### Review of Literature

Hawkins (2000) emphasizes that the library of the future will have the daunting mission of helping scholars discover what relevant information exists anywhere in the world and in a variety of formats and media. However, according to Tiefel (2004) most library users are unaware of the quality and variety of information available. According to Dadzie (2005) electronic resources are invaluable research tools that complement the printed ones that are based in the traditional library. Electronic journals relatively provide efficient access to information and, thus they are easy to distribute to library patrons than traditional print; in the financial stringent environment of higher education system, electronic journals have become a medium which is cheaper than the traditional printed journals (Ellis and Oldman, 2005). Online databases are a collection of electronic information sources (e-journals/e-books) by publishers from various fields and disciplines, (Afolabi, 2007). The information revolution brought forth by advances in information and communication technology has enabled universities and colleges around the world to take advantage of these developments. New modes of teaching, learning and accessing information have emerged as a result of Internet and World Wide Web (Darkwa et al 2007). According to Shuling (2007), electronic information has gradually become a major resource in every university library. The emergence of electronic information resources, simply referred to as electronic resources, has tremendously transformed information handling and management in academic environments. Academic libraries are an integral part of universities and have a critical role to play in supporting the core mission of the university that is teaching, learning and research.

### Design of the Study

The study was limited to the faculty and students of Vinayaka Missions Medical College & Hospital Karaikal, Puducherry.



A questionnaire survey was conducted to collect the information regarding the use of e-resources, frequency of use of e-resources, purpose of using e-resources, frequency of locating desired information, problems faced by the users while using e-resources. Totally 100 questionnaires were distributed to collect the primary data out of which 82 questionnaires were found usable for analysis. The questionnaires were completed by personal visits with users. Questionnaires were distributed randomly to the users. The collected data was analyzed and presented in the tabular form.

## Discussion

**Table 1: User-Friendly Interface to the College Website**

Respondents	Yes	No	Total
Faculty	43	9	52(63.00)
Students	24		30(37.00)
<b>Total</b>	67	15	82 (100.00)

Table 1 Evident 67 that majority of them are faculties, i.e. 43 (82.69%), 24 (80.00%), respondent that the interface of the college Web site is user-friendly. Very few faculty members, i.e. 9 (17.31%), are students, i.e. 6 (20.00%), think that the interface of the college Web site is not user-friendly.

**Table 2: Use of Various E-Resources**

E - Resources	Respondents	
	Faculty	Students
E-Journals	35	26
E-Data archives	23	14
E-Books	13	9
E- CD/DVD's	40	28
E-Thesis	15	7
WWW	47	29
E-Mail	48	28
E-Research Reports	8	2

Table 2 shows that the majority of the faculties 35(67.30%) and students 26 (86.66%) prefer to use e-journals. Second highest preference is WWW and use of e-mail with 47 (90.38%) and 48 (92.30%) among faculties whereas 29 (96.66%) and 28 (93.33%) among students and thirdly preferred CD/DVD's is 40(76.92%) and 28(93.33%), 44% of faculties and 46% of students make the use of e-Databases. Table 1 highlight that only the well-known e-resources are preferably used by the students and faculty members, the rest of the e-resources i.e. e-thesis, e research reports and e-books are comparatively less used.

**Table 3: Use of the Library Internet Hub as a Gateway to Access Electronic Resource**

Respondents	Yes	No	Total
Faculty	34 (65.38%)	18 (34.61%)	52
Students	23 (76.67%)	7 (23.33%)	30

Table 3 shows that more than half of them are belongs to faculties, i.e. 34 (65.38%),only 23 (76.67%) of respondents are belongs to student are using the library Internet zone as gateway to access the electronic sources. A few of the faculties, i.e. 18 (34.61%), and students, i.e. 7 (23.33%), are not using the library Internet zone as gateway to access the electronic sources.

**Table 4: Training Taken Related to Electronic Resources**

Respondents	Yes	No	Total
Faculty	27 (51.92%)	25 (48.08%)	52
Students	3 (10.00%)	27 (90.00%)	30

Table 4 shows that 27 (51.92%) faculty members have taken the training regarding the access to electronic resources, while 25 (48.08%) faculties didn't get any training regarding the access to electronic resources. A majority of students, i.e. 27



(90.00%), didn't get training in the use of electronic resources and few of the students, i.e. 3 (10.00 %), got training in the access of electronic resources. So it could be seen clearly from the above discussion majority of them did not get training.

**Table 5: Frequency of Using E-Resources**

Respondents	Yes	No	Rarely	Total
Faculty	33 (63.46%)	15 (28.85%)	4 (7.69%)	52
Students	26 (86.67%)	4 (13.33%)	-	30

Table-6 reveals that 33 (63.46%) faculties and 26 (86.67%) students regularly use e-resources. 15 (28.85%) faculties and 4 (13.33%) students use the e-resources occasionally, whereas 4 (7.69%) faculties use e-resources rarely. It is found that students are use the e-resources from library regularly.

**Table 6: Where Do You Mostly Access Required Information**

E-Resources	Faculty	Students
E-Books	5 (9.62%)	2 (6.67%)
E-Journals	24 (46.15%)	17 (56.67%)
Online-Databases	9 (17.13%)	9 (30.00%)
Search Engines	37 (71.15%)	14 (46.67%)

Table 6 reveals that most of respondent's access e-journals and search engines to get required information at VMMC & H. 24 (46.15%) faculties and 17 (56.67%) students prefer to use e-journals, whereas 37 (71.15%) faculties and 14 (46.67%) students make the use of search engines to get the desired material. Online databases are also very popular among students, as 9 (30.00%) of them prefer to use these. Use of e-books is used less by the faculty and students in comparison to other online resources. It is noted, that the students community access the maximum relevant material from e-journals.

**Table 7: Reasons for Using E-Resources**

Reasons for Using E-Resources	Faculties	Students
Time Saving	39 (75.00%)	18 (60.00%)
Time Consuming	3 (5.77%)	-----
Easy to Use	34 (65.38%)	24 (80.00%)
Difficult to Use	4 (7.69%)	-----
More Informative	25 (48.08%)	18 (60.00%)
Less Informative	3 (5.77%)	---
More Expensive	5 (9.62%)	6 (20.00%)
Less Expensive	6 (11.54%)	12 (40.00%)
More Useful	27 (51.92%)	18 (60.00%)
Less Useful	3 (5.77%)	-----

Table 7 elaborates that majority of the faculties prefer to use e-resources in comparison to traditional resources, because 39 (75%) of faculty feel that e-resources are time saving, followed by easy to use, i.e. 34 (65.38%), further followed by more useful and more informative, i.e. 27 (51.92%) and 25 (48.08%) respectively. 60% of students prefer to use e-resources because they feel that e-resources are time saving, more informative and more useful. 80% of students use e-resources due to their easiness. 6 (11.54%) faculties and 12 (40.00%) students use e-resources because they are feel less expensive. Only 3 (5.77%) faculties think that e-resources are less useful. It could be seen from the above discussion it is very useful for faculty and students.

**Table 8: Do E-Resources Moderate the Importance of Traditional Resources**

Respondents	Yes	No	Total
Faculty	20 (38.46%)	32 (61.54%)	52 (63.00)
Students	8 (26.67%)	22 (73.33%)	30 (37.00)
Total	28	54	82 (100)



Table 8 reveals that a huge amount of faculties, 32 (61.54%), and students, 22 (73.33%), think that e-resources never moderate the light of traditional resources, whereas 20 (38.46%) faculties and 8 (26.67%) students feel that e-resources may replace traditional sources of information. It is found that respondents are give the priority to both. Even though we are in a information era.

### **Conclusion**

Study shows that the use of e-resources is very common among the faculty and students of Vinayaka Missions Medical College, Karaikal majority of the faculties and students are dependent on e-resources to get the desired and relevant information. But practical use of e-resources is not up-to date the worth in comparison to investments made in acquiring these resources; secondly infrastructure and training programs should also be revised as per requirements. It is observed that the availability of e-resources on the campus is almost sufficient for all the existing disciplines but the infrastructure to use these resources is not adequate and can hinder the ability to meet the requirements of users.

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