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# E-Resources usage among the faculty members of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education, Kanyakumari district: A Study

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## Abstract

E-resources in any type of libraries more specifically academic libraries of higher learning intuitions have become a center of attraction of users, particularly faculty members. The quality of a library and its services are now a day's mostly calculated on the basis of availability and e-resources. This paper defines e-resources, objectives, scope and limitations of the study.

## Introduction:

E-resource in any type of Libraries more specifically academic Libraries of Higher Learning institutions have become a center of attraction for users, particularly faculty members. The quality of a Library and its services are now a day's mostly calculated on the basic of availability and Usage of e-resources. Users of this generation are also more comfortable in using these resources in comparison to their point counterparts .In any academic set up faculty members are the main mentor of all academic activities and the quality of education primarily depends upon their skill and Knowledge. Hence they need to be well versed will all types of Library resources including e-resources.

## About the NICHE

Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education comprising the Noorul Islam College of Engineering as its constituent teaching unit, has been declared as Deemed-to-be-University by the Ministry of Human resource Development (Department of Higher Education),Government of India under section 3 of the UGC Act,1956,on the advice of the UGC, vide Notification No.F.9.51/2004-U.3 dated 8th December 2008.The Educational Institution-Noorul Islam College of Engineering had a humble beginning in the year 1989 with two under graduate Engineering programs with an intake capacity of 80 students,has now metamorphosed itself into one of the best educational institutions in the southern region of India offering 17 undergraduate,21 Post Graduate,8 M.Phil, programmes and Ph.D Degree in all Discipline.

## Objective of the study:

The Basic objectives of the present study are to make a study on the use of e-resources by the faculty members of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education

- To know the types and media of e-resources used by faculty members.
- To find out the purpose of use e-resources by faculty members.
- To Know the Preferred Place of Faculty members for Searching the e-resources.
- To Examine the effects of e-resources on study and research activities of faculty members.

- To find out the advantages of e-resources felt by the faculty members
- To identify various problems/ barriers in using e-resources by faculty members

## Scope and Limitations of the Study

The Study is confined to the use of e-resources by the regular faculty members of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education.

## The various limitations of the study are:

- (a) The study is limited to the Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education state having regular teaching departments and e-resources collection of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education.
- (b) Among different categories of users of library of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education, the study is confined to regular faculty members only.
- (c) Among various aspects of, the study is limited to the use of e-resources by the faculty members only and not any other aspects.

## Methodology Followed

The study was based on cross sectional survey method. Among various techniques of survey method, Questionnaire technique was selected for the study. Accordingly a structured questionnaire was designed to collect data from the regular faculty members of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education under the scope of the Study, Keeping in mind the basic objectives of the study. The entire population i.e. all regular faculty members were taken as sample for the study which was 555 in numbers.WW

## Data Analysis and Interpretation

A structured questionnaire was prepared and was distributed to 320 faculty members of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education who were physically available in the University and excluded others who were absent due to various official and personal assignments. Out of 320 faculty members, 202 responded with the filled in questionnaires (63.12%).Hence in all cases the total number of respondents for the present study will be 202. Further all the respondents were computer literate and were using Internet regularly. The Collected data were edited, tabulated and analyzed with the help of statistics techniques and graphical representation.

**Table 1**

### Purpose of using e-resources by the faculty members

S. No	Purpose	% of respondents	%of Response
1	Teaching	166	82.17
2	Research	200	99
3	Paper Publication	192	95.04
4	Update Knowledge	98	48.51
5	Other	69	34.15

The purpose of using e-resources varies from person to person. The analysis of data of Table-1 reveals that out of 202 respondents, as high as 200 respondents having 99% of response opined that the basic purpose of using e-resources is research. It is followed by responses on other purposes such as paper publication (95.04%) teaching (82.17%), update knowledge on their subject (98%) and other purposes such as entertainment, accessing e-resources for other etc.(34.15%)

**Table 2**

**Types of e-resources used by faculty members**

S. No	Types of e-resources	% of respondents	%
1	e-Bibliography	170	84.1
2	e-Journals	187	92.5
3	e-thesis	133	65.8
4	e-report	132	65.3
5	e-books	76	37.6
6	e-encyclopedia/dictionary	136	67.3
7	e-News paper	108	53.4
8	Other	74	36.6

The analysis of data of Table-3 shows the various types of e-resources used by the university faculty members of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education. It indicates that e-journals are mostly used by faculty members i.e.187 out of 202 (92.5%).It is followed by use of other types of e-resources such as e-bibliography (84.1%),e-encyclopedia/dictionary(67.3%),e-newspaper(53.4%), e-book(37.6%),and other types of e-resources(36.6%) which include e-magazines, e-maps, other e-reports etc.

**Table 3**

**Mode of e-resources used by Faculty of C.G**

S. No	Mode	%of Respondents	%
1.	Online	140	69.30
2.	Offline	04	1.98
3.	Online& Offline	64	31.68

The e-resources can be assessed both online and offline mode. The analysis of date of Table-indicated that most of the faculty members use online e-resources (69.30%), followed by use of both online and offline e-resources (31.68%) and only offline e-resources(1.98%)

**Table 4**

**Effect of e-resource on faculty Members**

Effective	Decreasing Effect		Increasing Effect	
	% of Respondents	%	#%of Respondents	%
Searching Time	160	79.2	42	20.8
Utilization of Study time	51	25.25	151	74.75
Speed in work	8	3.96	194	96.04
Publication of Research Papers/Articles	6	2.97	196	97.03
Publication of Book	5	2.48	197	97.52
Participation in Seminar/Conf./Workshop	12	5.4	190	94.6
Improvement in Teaching Quality	7	3.47	195	96.53
Update Subject Knowledge	10.	4.95	192	95.5

The Study attempted to find out the effect of e-resources on various works of faculty members. The analysis of data on this has been tabulated in Table-which explains the effect of e-resources on various works of faculty members. Regarding searching time to find required information, out of 202 respondents,160(79.2%)respondents were in the view that the time for searching information is decreasing due to use of e-resources whereas 42(20.85)were in the view that the searching time is increasing. Similarly the majority of the respondents were in the view that various aspects such as utilization of study time, sapped in work, publication of research papers/articles, publication of books, participation in seminar/conference/workshop, improvement in teaching quality, update subject knowledge has increased due to the effect of e-resources with the rate of responses such as 74.75%, 96.04%, 97.03%, 97.52%, 94.6%, 96.53%, 95.5% respectively.

**Table 5**

**Advantages of e-resource by faculty of C.G**

S.No	Advantages	%of Respondents	
		Yes	No
1.	Save Time	165	81.68
		37	18.32
2.	Speed in access	120	59.40
		82	40.60
3.	Easy to use	164	81.18
		38	18.82
4	More Informative	167	82.68
		35	17.32
5.	More Useful	169	83.66
		33	16.34
6.	Less expensive	141	69.81
		61	30.19

The Present Study attempted to analyze various advantages of e-resources opined by the faculty members. The data collected on this as per the analysis of Table-reveals that maximum respondents opined the main advantage of e-resource is that it is more useful with a response rate of 83.66%.It is followed by other advantages expressed by faculty members such as more informative (82.68%), save time (81.68%), easy to use (81.18%), less expensive (69.81%) an sapped in access (59.40%).

**Table 6**

**Problems in using e-resource by faculty Members**

S. No	Problems	% of respondents	% of Response
1.	Unfamiliar to e-resources	34	16.83
2.	Lack of Knowledge /guidance to access e-resources	105	51.98
3	Uncomfortable to Study on Screen	88	43.56
4.	Unavailability of required information	44	20.29
5.	Slow Downloading	106	52.47
6.	Language	97	48.01

Regarding various problems faced by the faculty members in accessing e-resources,the analysis of data of Table indicates that slow downloading is the major problem in accessing e-resources(52.47%).The other problems as

indicated by the faculty members are lack of Knowledge/guidances to access e-resources with a response rate of 51.98%, Language (48.01%), uncomfortable to study on screen (43.56%) and unavailability of required information (20.29%).

### Major Findings of the Study

On the basis of data analysis and interpretation and also on the basis of personal interaction with the faculty members, the major findings of the study can be summarized as below:

- a) The basic purpose of using e-resources by the faculty members is to carry out research work with a response rate of 99%.
- b) The main place for accessing e-resources by the faculty members is the Central library of their respective university as opined by 94.05% of respondents. Further departmental library is used by very few numbers of respondents (24.75%) which indicates that either the absent of departmental libraries or the departmental libraries lack necessary infrastructure facilities to access e-resources. also poor rate of response i.e. 14.36% for other place like departmental chamber indicates that the e-resources may be of single user or may be user ID and password based instead of IP based. Similarly low response to use e-resources from outside the institute indicate the absence of remote user facilities in these university.
- c) E-Journals are the main e-resources used by the faculty members with a response rate of 92.5%. Surprisingly use of e-theses as opined by 65.8% seems to be due to Sodhaganga project of UGC and availability of various open access and commercial Electronic Theses and Dissertation (ETD) databases. Surprisingly as opined by respondents e-books are lowest use by the faculty members (37.6%) which indicates that e-books are not procured by all university library.
- d) Most of the faculty members preferred to use e-resources online (69.30%).
- e) Due to the effect of e-resources, the various works of faculty members such as utilization of study time, sapped of work, Publication of research papers/books, participation in seminar/Conference/improvement of teaching quality, update subject knowledge etc. has increased remarkably as per the opinion expressed by them. Further the searching time to find out the required information of faculty members has decreased (97.2% responses).
- f) The Main advantages of e-resources as expressed by the respondents is "more informative" with a response rate of 82.68%. However another advantages "speed in access" is opined by lowest rate of response i.e. 59.40% which is little surprising since the main essence of e-resources of is the speed in access. It indicates that faculty members are not full aware of the search techniques of e-resources.
- g) The main problems faced by faculty members in using e-resources as opined by them are slow down loading (52.47%) and lack of knowledge/guidance to use e-resources (52.47%). Further language of e-

resources is another problem expressed by the respondents, which is due to the Hindi Medium educational system of the Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education.

### Suggestions and Conclusion

E-resources are gaining popularity day by day among faculty members and gradually they are becoming more comfortable in using e-resources. Accordingly the libraries of academic institutions more particularly the university library need to continuously access the electronic information need of faculty members and their information seeking behavior so that they can develop a good collection of e-resources. Further simply acquiring e-resources is not enough, the libraries must ensure its smooth access through development of necessary infrastructure, promote the use of e-resources through proper notification of availability of e-resources through personal mail, website etc and conduct regular training programs about the technicalities and effective ways to use e-resources. The present study reveals an encouraging picture about the use of e-resources by the faculty members of university of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education. However keeping pace with the development of information technology and demands of users, the library of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher education need to acquire more and more e-resources and develop necessary facilities to access will be possible and return on investment can probably made and justified.

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