

Use of Digital Information Resources in S.V. Agriculture College, Tirupati: A User Study

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Abstract

This study attempts to describe the use of digital resources and services by the library users of S.V. Agricultural University Library. The library and information professionals must acquire latest knowledge and skills as the library is transforming into a highly IT-influenced service center. This paper gives an overview of current trends in digital library research consisting of advantages, disadvantages, functions and the impact of information technology on the traditional library. This study attempts to know the utilization and usage of information resources and services by S.V. Agricultural College (ANGRAU), Tirupati.

Keywords: Digital Resources, Digital Library, Agricultural library, e-Books, e-Journals.

Introduction

S.V. Agricultural College Library was started functioning on 07-8-1963. In the beginning, 533 books were purchased by several Departments of the College formed part of the Library. Some books were transferred from Agricultural College, Bapatla for immediate use by the students and staff.

Since the formation of APAU in 1964, the library has grown in leaps and bounds. Accordingly, the libraries of S.V. Agricultural College and College of Veterinary Science were merged on 11-08-1982, raising the library holdings to 34,488 and now separated into S.V. Veterinary University library and ANGRAU Regional Library in the year 2007. It has now 32,196 volumes of

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collection. The library has created a database of Books, Journals, Thesis, Reports, and Reference sources and made it available through 'OPAC.'

The library has also created databases of current periodicals, CDs, Online-Journals subscribed, and digitized databases of Theses available in the Library. It has also contributed to the project on Strengthening of Digital Library and Information Management under NARS (e-Granth) by setting up a workstation to digitize old resources before 1960 housed in the library building. Recently the library has implemented KOHA Library Management System. The library has implemented new technologies to keep pace with the growing information needs of the community to provide better information services.

Objectives

- To find out the category of users of digital resources
- To find out the purpose and utilization of digital resources by the library users
- To find out the preference for digital resources by the library users
- To find out the problems faced by library users in searching for information through digital resources
- To suggest the measures for improving access to digital resources in libraries

Research Methodology

To achieve the study's objectives, a survey method was adopted. A structured questionnaire was designed and used to collect data from the S.V. Agriculture Library users, Tirupati. One hundred questionnaires were distributed among the library users randomly, out of which 84 users responded to the questionnaire.

Scope and Limitation

The scope of the present study is confined only to the library users visiting S.V Agriculture Regional Library Students, Faculty Members, Research Scholars. The study population is limited to 84 S.V. Agricultural Regional Library users.

Analysis and Interpretation

The analysis and interpretation of data and results have been presented in the following tables and figures:

Table-1 : Category-wise Distribution of Respondents

Category	Respondents	Percentage
UG students	58	69.04
PG students	26	30.95
Total	84	100

The Library has all types of members, including Under Graduate, Post Graduate. Respondents of this research study are described in table 1. which shows that the majority of respondents, i.e., 69.04 % are UG students, and the remaining PG students are 30.95%. Respondents are categorized according to a period of use of the university library as described in Table 2.

Table-2 : Use of Library Services

Time Duration in Years	Respondents	Percentage
Below 1 year	10	11.9
1-2 years	46	54.76
3-4 years	23	27.38
More than 4 years	05	5.96
Total	84	100

Table 2 shows the years of use of library services by the respondents. Data shows that most users, 54.76%, use library services for 1-2 years, followed by 27.38% of users who have been using the library services for 3-4 years. There is a negligible 11.9% of users use library services from below one year, and the remaining 5.96% use library services for more than 4 years.

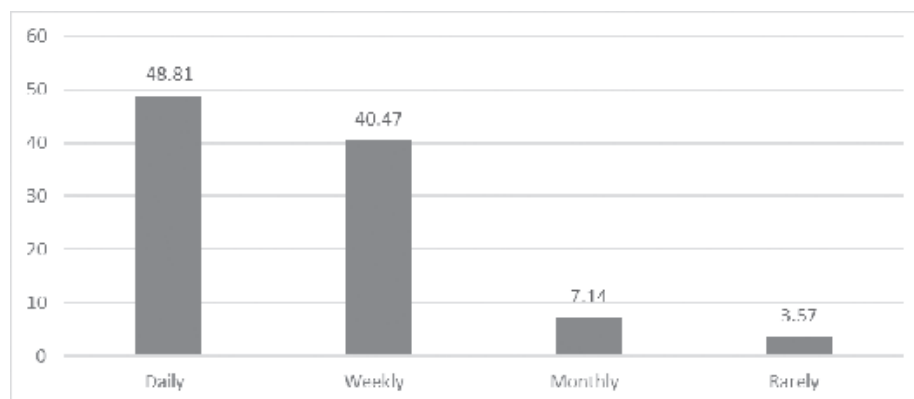


Figure: 1 Frequency of Internet Use

Fig. 1 shows the frequency of use of internet by the users. It is found that the majority of respondents, 48.81% are using the internet daily, followed by 40.47% weekly, 7.14% of the respondents use it monthly, and the remaining uses internet rarely.

Table-3 : Awareness of Digital Resources

Awareness of Digital Resources	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	84	100
No	-	-
Total	84	100

Table 3 shows the awareness of digital resources among the respondents. The table shows that 100% of respondents are aware of the available digital resources of the library.

Table-4 : Uses of Digital Resources

Uses of Digital Resources	Respondents	Percentage
e-books	54	64.28
e-journals	36	42.85
e-databases	30	35.71
Internet	48	57.14

**Multiple responses*

Table 4 shows the use of digital resources by the respondents. It is revealed that there is a maximum of 64.28% of respondents use E-books, followed by the Internet 57.14%. E-journals are used by only 42.85% of respondents, and E-databases are used by only 35.71%.

Table-5: Purpose of Using Digital Resources

Purpose of Using Digital Resources	Respondents	Percentage
Seminars/conference	10	11.9
Preparing notes	20	23.8
Updating knowledge	38	45.23
Writing Projects/ Assignment	16	19.04
Total	84	100

Table 5 shows the purpose of the respondents for using digital resources. The majority of respondents 45.23% use digital resources to update their knowledge, followed by 23.8% for preparing notes, 19.04% for Writing Projects/ Assignments, and only 11.9% uses digital resources to prepare papers for seminars/conference.

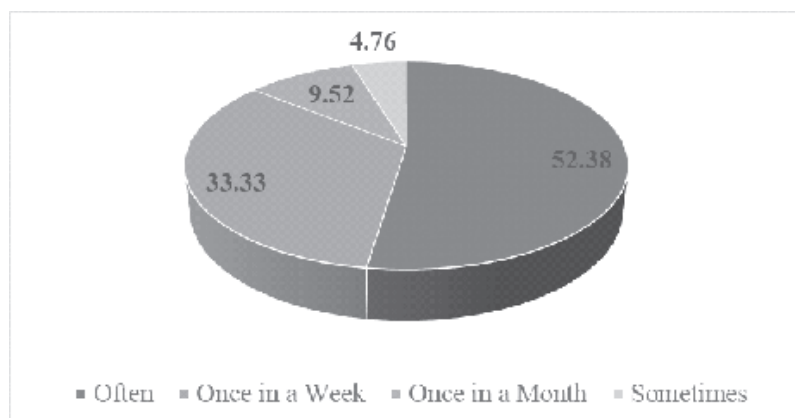


Fig-2 Frequency of Using Digital Resources

Figure 2 shows the frequency of use of digital resources by the respondents. The figure shows that 52.38% of respondents often use digital resources, which means that they use them in their daily routine, followed by 33.33% of respondents who use them once a week, 9.52% of respondents who use them once in a month and the remaining 4.76% of respondents use digital resources sometimes.

Library users face some problems while using digital resources. These problems may be due to the non-familiarity of the users with the available digital resources or may be due to not getting proper support from the library staff or maybe insufficient resources available in the library.

Table- 6: Difficulties in Using Digital Resources

Difficulties in Using Digital Resources	Respondents	Percentage
Don't Know How to Use	34	40.47
Can't Find Proper Information	23	27.38
Support from Library Staff	16	19.04
Insufficient Resources in the Library	11	13.09
Total	84	100

Table-6 shows the difficulties in using digital resources by library users. It shows that 40.47% of users don't know how to use the library's digital resources. 27.38% believe that they can find out the required/pertinent information from the available resources. 19.04% say that they get proper support from the library staff and 13.09% opinion that digital resources are insufficient in the library.

Suggestions

From the above findings, there is no proper use of digital resources even though there are sufficient resources available in the library and most users are also aware of these resources. Nevertheless, according to the finding, it can be suggested that libraries should organize orientation programs to increase awareness and the importance of digital resources. The library is also needed to increase the accessibility of these resources by increasing computer terminal's WiFi facility and increasing the budget for the digital collection. The library should conduct a users' survey to know the users' needs from time to time.

Conclusion

Most users visit the library daily to, borrow books, read newspapers, prepare for competitive examinations, and access the Internet for related digital information. Therefore, it is suggested that latest books, periodicals/magazines, and other printed and nonprinted material should be added to the library to meet the users' requirements. Most of the users are not aware of the services provided in the library. Thus, it is suggested that proper user education or library orientation programs should be provided to the users. Users surveys may also be carried out to know the needs of users, the current status, and the strength and weaknesses of library services to improve the existing situation and provide better services to users.

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