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"UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SOURCES AND SERVICES IN MEDICAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES AT VELLORE DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU, INDIA"

¹Lakshmipriyaa, R. V, ²Dr. K. Vinitha, ³Dr. A. Thirumagal

¹Ph D Research Scholar (part time) in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli 627012 & Librarian in Soka Ikeda College, Chennai.

²Librarian, St. Mary's College, Thoothukudi.

³Librarian, Manonmaniam Sundaranar university, Tirunelveli, 627 012

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ABSTRACT

This study adopted for the research is descriptive and the data collected through a normative survey which involves structured questionnaire and interview schedules. The researcher personally visit the surveyed two Medical College Libraries at Vellore District, Tamil Nadu, India to distribute the questionnaire and interact with respondents to receive the primary data, appropriate sampling techniques deployed during the course of study and application of statistical techniques using latest statistics software. The study is confined between the data collection period of before COVID19 on November 2019 – January 2020.

Introduction

According to Bhattacharya (1978) "Information is the message conveyed or intended to be conveyed by a systematized body of ideas". The term 'information' has been derived from two Latin words "Forma" and "Formatio". The terms such as knowledge, fact, data, news and message can be used as synonyms to the term information. It is not easy to define the term information precisely. Information means the communication of knowledge about an event of a given condition or the spread of knowledge about an event of a given condition or the spread of knowledge derived from observation, study experience or instruction.

Information Sources

Information services are usually provided through the information sources,

where the required information's are likely to be available. For the convenience information sources are classified into (1) primary, (2) secondary and (3) tertiary sources. The primary source or document is one in which the information contained is original. Sources provide the same information as available in the primary sources they are called secondary sources. Tertiary sources of information contain information thrice removed from the primary sources.

Library services

These are Services provided by the library to the users. This can include instruction on how to access and use library materials. The Library services / facilities include Circulation Service, Reference Service, Online reservation of books, Recommendation of library material, Current Awareness Service, Inter Library Loan Service, Photocopying / Printing Service, Orientation and Information Sessions, Selective Dissemination of Information, Audio Visual Service and Multimedia Section.

Objective of the Study

- ✓ Number of Users selected as samples among the Medical College Libraries surveyed
- ✓ Distribution of Respondents According to Designation
- ✓ Utilization of Different Formal Information Primary Sources
- ✓ Utilization of Different Formal Information Secondary Sources
- ✓ Utilization of Informal Sources of information
- ✓ The Top Five Primary/Secondary Journals
- ✓ Usefulness and Familiarity in Accessing the Online Full Text Journals
- ✓ Purpose of Using Electronic Resources and Services
- ✓ Overall Information Services

Table – 1: Number of Users selected as samples among the Medical College Libraries surveyed

S.No	Medical Colleges in Vellore District	Distributed	Received	Percentage
1.	Christian Medical College	75	68	45.33
2.	Vellore Government Medical College	75	63	42.00
Total		150	131	87.33

There are 150 structured questionnaires have been distributed among two selected Medical College Libraries at Vellore District, Tamil Nadu, India, 75 questionnaires have been randomly distributed to the respondents in each Medical Colleges which include the faculty members (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor) and Students. Of which, 131 filled responses received from the two Medical Colleges, the response rate is 87.33 percent.

Table – 2: Distribution of Respondents According to Designation

S. No	Designation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
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1.	Students	78	59.54
2.	Assistant Professors	25	19.08
3.	Associate Professors	18	13.75
4.	Professors	10	7.63
Total		131	100.00

The above table revealed that the distribution of respondents according to designation of the selected medical colleges at Vellore District. The majority 78 (59.54 percent) of the respondents are in Students, followed by 25 Assistant Professors (19.08 percent), 18 Associate Professors (13.75 percent) and 10 Professors (7.63 percent) in the surveyed medical colleges.

Table – 3: Utilization of Different Formal Information Primary Sources

S.No	Formal Information Sources	Respondents	Percent
1.	Periodicals	128	97.71
2.	Proceedings of Conferences/ Seminars/Symposia	114	87.02
3.	Standards	103	78.63
4.	Patents	98	74.81
5.	Technical Reports	95	72.52
6.	Thesis/Dissertations	78	59.54

It is found from the analysis that majority of the respondents used primary periodicals (97.71 percent), followed by conference proceedings (87.02 percent), standards (78.63 percent), patents (74.81 percent), technical report (72.52 percent) and thesis/dissertations (59.54 percent).

Table – 4: Utilization of Different Formal Information Secondary Sources

S.No	Formal Information Sources	Respondents	Percent
1.	Indexing Journals	128	97.71
2.	Abstracting Journals	121	92.37
3.	Dailies	90	68.70
4.	Textbooks/Handbooks	89	67.94
5.	Reference Books	68	51.91
6.	Encyclopedias	65	49.62
7.	Dictionaries	59	45.04
8.	Bibliographies	28	21.37

It is inferred from the table that to the surveyed respondents are preferred indexing journals (97.71 percent), abstracting journals (92.37 percent), dailies (68.70 percent), textbooks/handbooks (67.94 percent) and reference books (51.91 percent) as secondary sources of information, while bibliography (21.37 percent) were the least opted the secondary sources.

Table – 5: Utilization of Informal Sources of information

S.No	Information Sources	Respondents	Percent
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1.	Mentoring through Internet	118	90.08
2.	Attending Seminars/Conferences/ Workshops	101	77.10
3.	Discussion with colleagues/Specialists	92	70.23

It is inferred that the majority of the medical students and the faculty members preferred Mentoring through Internet (90.08 percent), Attending Seminars/Conferences/Workshops (77.10 percent) and Discussion with colleagues/Specialists (70.23 percent) as informal sources of information.

Table – 6: The Top Five Primary/Secondary Journals

S.No	Top Five Primary Journals	Respondents	Percent
1.	The Lancet	124	94.66
2.	New England Journal of Medicine	120	91.60
3.	FOGSI	101	77.10
4.	Journal of American Medical Association	95	72.52
5.	Annals of International Medicine	85	64.89
S.No	Top Five Secondary Journals	Respondents	Percent
1.	Psychology Today	121	92.37
2.	Diabetic Living	114	87.02
3.	Scientific American	102	77.86
4.	Hopkins Medicine	68	51.91
5.	ADDitude	63	48.09

The above table revealed that the Students and the Faculty members of the surveyed Medical College Libraries at Vellore District, Tamil Nadu, India, there 94.66 percent of the respondents are prefer to use the primary journal of The Lancet, followed by 91.60 percent of the respondents are prefer to use the New England Journal of Medicine.

The usages of secondary level of periodical, 92.37 percent of the respondents are mostly used Psychology Today, followed by 87.02 percent of the respondents are used diabetic Living.

Table – 7: Usefulness and Familiarity in Accessing the Online Full Text Journals

S.No	Online Full Text Periodicals	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Poor	Don't know
1.	MD Consult	58	21	18	14	20
2.	Science Direct	49	24	21	13	24
3.	PUBMED CENTRAL	46	23	18	12	32
4.	Pro Quest	45	18	24	09	35
5.	CINHAL -EBSCO Full text journals	41	18	24	11	37

6.	OVID - JOURNAL	37	20	21	13	40
7.	DOAJ (Direct Online Access Journal)	39	22	24	14	32

The surveyed Students and the faculty members where used good number of full text journals and archives of medical research papers from both subscribed as well as open access databases. It is found from analysis the MD consult doing the olio clinical solution from Elsevier preferred by majority of the 58 respondents as excellent and very good 21 respondents as a source of online full text publications, while Science Direct 49 respondents were conceder as excellent and 24 respondents very good source of full text journals by the other major group of respondents.

Table – 8: Purpose of Using Electronic Resources and Services

S.No	Purpose of Using	Respondents	Percent
1.	Update current medical science knowledge	124	94.66
2.	To support teaching, learning & research needs	119	90.84
3.	To understand the hardware & software requirements for medical science	104	79.39

It is evident from the above table the Students and Staff members are using electronic resources and services for different purposes. Among them, the purposes of Update current medical science knowledge (94.66 percent), is preferred by majority of respondents while the next majority of 90.84 percent of the medical professionals to preferred to purpose of teaching, learning and research needs to access the e-resource, while 79.39 percent of faculty and students in medical college to access e-resources to understand the technological and Information Technology medicine.

Table – 9: Overall Information Services

Overall Opinion	Students	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
Very Good	23	08	06	05	42
Good	18	06	05	02	31
Fair	15	04	02	02	23
Poor	13	03	02	01	19
Not at all	09	04	03	00	16

The opinion on overall services from the medical college libraries among the respondents. A number of respondetns felt Very Good (42) and very good (31) in terms of the opinion on overall services from the selected medical college libraries. It is also important to felt that 23 respondents rated service as Fair and 19

rated respondents services as poor. A majority of the Professors rated opinion on overall Services among the surveyed selected medical college libraries as good.

Conclusion

The library of surveyed medical colleges and medical research institutions has had a range of documents and other print resources, being professional education the students and faculties mainly depend on the e-resources from reputed authors and scientific publishers' across the globe.

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