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E-RESOURCES KNOWLEDGE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS IN CUDDALORE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT :

The study was intended to find out the E-Resources knowledge of College Students in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, India. Random Sampling Technique was used to compose a sample of 900 College Students. Mean, Standard Deviation and t value were calculated for the analysis of data. The result revealed that the Gender and Type of family had no significant difference but, Locality, subject group and Internet users exhibited significant difference in respect of their E-Resources knowledge of College Students.

KEYWORDS : E-Resources, Knowledge, College Students.

INTRODUCTION:

An electronic resource is defined as a resource which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and so on. Over the past few years, a numbers of techniques and related standards have been developed which allow documents to be created and distributed in electronic form. Hence to cope with the present situation, librarians are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources for their collection developments that the documents of users are better fulfilled. The e-resources on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on the collections of University libraries. These are more useful due to inherent capabilities for manipulation and searching, providing information access is cheaper to acquiring information resources, savings in storage and maintenance etc. and sometimes the electronic form is the only alternative.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Advances in computer applications during the past few decades have brought radical changes in the way information is gathered, store, organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed. The application of computers in information processing has brought several products and services to the scene. 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. Further, the distribution time between product publication and its delivery has been drastically reduced. The Internet can be used for efficient retrieval and meeting information needs. This is very important for university libraries since most of them call for more and more research work. 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.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem selected for the present study may be stated as follows, "E-Resources knowledge of College Students in Cuddalore District".

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The researchers have framed following objectives for the study to find out the difference in E-Resources knowledge if any, among:

1. Male and Female College Students
2. Rural and Urban area College Students
3. Arts and Science group College Students
4. College Students coming from Nuclear and Joint family
5. Internet users and non users of B.Ed. Trainees

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

For the present study, based on the objectives the researchers framed the following hypotheses,

1. There is significant difference between Male and female College Students in respect of their E-Resources knowledge.
2. There is significant difference between Rural and urban area College Students in respect of their E-Resources knowledge.
3. There is significant difference between Arts and Science group College Students in respect of their E-Resources knowledge.
4. There is significant difference between Nuclear and Joint family College Students in respect of their E-Resources knowledge.
5. There is significant difference between Internet users and non users College Students in respect of their E-Resources knowledge.

METHODS OF THE STUDY

Normative survey method was employed. The tool is administered to the samples of 900 College Students. The data was collected and subjected to statistical analysis to arrive at a conclusion.

TOOLS USED

E-Resources knowledge test was constructed and standardized by Naga subramani P.C. (2015). This test consists of 49 multiple choice questions. The maximum mark for a question is 1 and the minimum mark is 0. Therefore one can get a maximum score of '49' and a minimum score of '0' for this test. The test used in this study, in order to measure students E-Resources knowledge has construct validity. Also the intrinsic validity found by the author (Naga subramani P.C.) of this tool was 0.79 and the reliability was found to be 0.63 by the split-half technique.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

In this present study, 900 College Students studying in different Arts and Science Colleges were taken as sample. The random sampling technique (Kothari, 1985) has been used in the selection of the sample. The samples were collected from the College Students of various Arts and Science Colleges in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, India.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

The following statistical techniques have been used in the present study for the analysis of collected data.

1. Descriptive Analysis
2. Differential Analysis

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEANS OF THE E-RESOURCES KNOWLEDGE

SL. NO	VARIABLE		NUMBER	MEAN	S.D	't'	Significant value
1.	Gender	Male	390	23.78	15.81	0.42	NS
		Female	510	22.92	17.95		
2.	Locality	Rural	360	22.20	17.69	3.04	S
		Urban	540	25.73	16.65		
3.	Subject group	Arts	560	21.06	17.19	2.46	S
		Science	340	24.89	16.96		
4.	Types of family	Nuclear	575	24.18	17.93	1.12	NS
		Joint	325	23.59	15.96		
5.	Internet Users	Yes	445	22.17	16.34	2.43	S
		No	455	19.76	17.83		

S=Significant

NS=Not Significant

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- (i) The verification of the hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that there is no significant difference in the E-Resources knowledge of Male and female College Students ($t=0.42$).
- (ii) The testing of the hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that there is a significant difference in the E-Resources knowledge of Rural and Urban area College Students ($t=3.04$) and it is inferred that the Urban area College Students have more E-Resources knowledge than the Rural Area College Students.
- (iii) The testing of the hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that there is significant difference in E-Resources knowledge of Arts and Science group College Students ($t=2.46$) and it is inferred that the Science group College Students have more E-Resources knowledge than the Arts group College Students.
- (iv) The testing of the hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that there is no significant difference in the E-Resources knowledge of Nuclear and Joint family College Students ($t=1.12$).
- (v) The testing of the hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that there is significant difference in E-Resources knowledge of Internet users and non-users College Students ($t=2.43$) and it is inferred that the Internet users College Students have more E-Resources knowledge than the non-users College Students.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, the following conclusions have been reached in the light of the present investigation. Gender and Type of family had no significant difference but, Locality, subject group and Internet users exhibited significant difference in E-Resources knowledge of College Students in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, India.

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