Performance of Research Scholars in Engineering College Libraries with Special Reference to R.M.K. Group of Institutions, Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract - This study is an investigation of Performance of Research Scholars in Engineering College Libraries with special reference to R.M.K. Group of Institutions, Thiruvallur District. 154 questionnaires were distributed among research scholars of R.M.K. Group of Engineering Colleges to collect relevant data. 99.97% (148) research scholars responded where 72 (48.64%) visit the library twice a week, 52 (35.13%) visit once in a week, 19 (12.83%) respondents visit daily, 5 (3.37%) visit fortnightly. It is found that 93.24% opined that the working hours of their respective libraries is convenient and only 16.76% researchers opined not convenient and majority of the research scholars (99.32%) visit the Library to use E- journals and 67.56% researchers visit the Library for audio visual resources. Library is playing vital role to meet multidimensional demands of staff, students and research scholar for information and knowledge.
Keywords: Library resources and services, Research Scholars, Information Search

I.INTRODUCTION

To know the effectiveness of various resources, services and facilities provided to the staff researchers in R.M.K. Group of institutions Engineering college libraries a well structured questionnaire is designed keeping in mind the objectives of the study. Out of 154 questionnaires distributed to the staff researchers who are pursuing research in R.M.K. Group of institutions under study, 148 filled questionnaires were received back with the response rate of 99.97%**.** The filled in questionnaires were analyzed, tabulated and interpreted in this chapter so as to derive reasonable findings.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

i. To examine the researchers' perceived effectiveness of library resources and services in R.M.K. Group of institutions
ii. To know the use of collections and services of the Engineering college libraries
iii. To trace out the purpose of the information search
iv. To determine the way of documents location and search elements of the libraries;
v. To find out the overall user satisfaction with the resources and services facilities provided in the three engineering college library users under R.M.K. Group of institutions.
vi. To study the expectations of the users with respect to the quality of the books and journals collection.
vii. To know the necessary information resources for researchers and learning process in the fields of interest to the engineering colleges.

III. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is an attempt to ascertain the use of the resource and services of the libraries by research scholar in the engineering colleges under R.M.K. Group of Institutions, Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu. The scope of study is confined to following three colleges, namely R.M.K. Engineering College, R.M.D. Engineering College and R.M.K. College of Engineering and Technology. The surveyed research scholars are only staff members were from engineering stream.

TABLE 1 DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of the Colleges	Number of questionnaire distributed	Number of Respondents		Total Percentage
		Male	**Female**	
R.M.K. Engineering College	58	24 (16.21%)	31 (20.94%)	37.15%
R.M.D. Engineering College	50	20 (13.51%)	28 (18.91%)	32.42%
R.M.K. College of Engineering and Technology	46	28 (18.92%)	17 (11.48%)	30.40%
Total	154	72 (48.64%)	76 (51.33%)	99.97%

Table1 indicates that a total 148 questionnaires responded out of 154 and consisted of 55 research scholars from R.M.K. Engineering College, 48 from R.M.D. Engineering College, 45 from R.M.K. College of Engineering and Technology. Majority of respondents 76 (51.33%) are female and remaining 72 (48.64%) of them are male respondents. Whereas gender and college wise where it is found that female are more represented from R.M.K. Engineering college and R.M.D. Engineering colleges and male are more represented from R.M.K. College of Engineering and Technology.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A number of literatures can be mentioned regarding performance of the user studies.

Sohail et al. (2012)[1] studied the use of library resources by the students of University of Kalyani. Authors found that guidance in the use of library resources and services was necessary to help students to meet their information needs. They also found that journals, text book and lecture notes were the most popular sources of information for the students.

Ezeala (2009)[2] has carried out analysis of effectiveness of agricultural research institute libraries. 340 researchers from all the 14 agricultural research institutes in Nigeria. The study revealed that library resources and services are inadequate, largely due to underfunding by parent institutions.

Webb and Bent (2007)[3] stated that libraries need to take stock of where they are now, list the services and resources they currently provide, ask users what they want from the library and combine the results of these investigations with new ideas and developments in order to provide a comprehensive and effective service to researchers

Badami (1993)[4] studied the use of services and facilities of Mangalore University Library. The majority of the research scholars visited the library for borrowing books, consulting periodicals, and more than half complained about the non-availability of current issues.

V. METHODOLOGY

The study uses the survey method. A well structured questionnaire was designed and used for collecting data. Therefore, suitable sampling method has been used. 154 questionnaires were disseminated to the users, selected suitably from the three engineering college libraries under study. Therefore, a total of 148 questionnaires were returned. Then the collected data tabulated and analysed accordingly. The results of the findings were accessible in tables using percentage.

VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE 2 FREQUENCY OF LIBRARY VISIT

Frequency of Library Visits	Department							Total
	CSE	EEE	ECE	E&I	IT	MECH.	S&H	
Daily	6 (20%)	1 (5.26%)	3 (12.50%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (6.66%)	2 (9.52%)	6 (17.14%)	19 (12.83%)
Twice a Week	11 (36.66%)	11 (57.89%)	10 (41.66%)	2 (50.00%)	8 (53.33%)	12 (63.15%)	18 (51.42%)	72 (48.64%)
Once in a Week	12 (40%)	5 (26.31%)	11 (45.83%)	2 (50.00%)	6 (40.00%)	7 (33.33%)	9 (25.71%)	52 (35.13%)
Fortnightly	1 (3.33%)	2 (10.52%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (5.71%)	5 (3.37%)
Once in a Month	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Occasionally	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Total	30 (100%)	19 (100%)	24 (100%)	4 (100%)	15 (100%)	21 (100%)	35 (100%)	148 (100%)

Table 2 shows the frequency of visit to their respective engineering college libraries. Out of 148 respondents, 72 (48.64%) visit the library visit twice a week, 52 (35.13%) visit once in a week, 19 (12.83%) respondents visit daily, 5 (3.37%) visit fortnightly.

The table 3 shows the data relating to user opinion about convenience of working hours. Majority of the researchers 138 (93.24%) opined that the working hours of their respective libraries is convenient and only 10 (6.76%) researchers. opined not convenient. where it is found that the positive response about convenience of working hours were more represented in CSE, ECE, Mechanical and S&H departments.

TABLE 3 USERS OPINION ABOUT CONVENIENCE OF WORKING HOURS

Users Opinion about Convenience of Working Hours	Department							TOTAL
	CSE	EEE	ECE	E&I	IT	MECH.	S&H	
Convenient	29 (96.66%)	17 (89.47%)	23 (95.83%)	4 (100%)	13 (86.66%)	20 (95.23%)	32 (91.42%)	138 (93.24%)
Not Convenient	1 (3.33%)	2 (10.52%)	1 (4.16%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (13.33%)	1 (4.76%)	3 (8.57%)	10 (6.76%)
Total	30 (100%)	19 (100%)	24 (100%)	4 (100%)	15 (100%)	21 (100%)	35 (100%)	148 (100%)

TABLE 4 USERS OPINION ABOUT PURPOSE OF VISIT TO THE LIBRARY

User Opinion about Purpose of Visit to theLibrary	Department-wise No. of Respondents							
Purpose of Visit	CSE	EEE	ECE	E&I	IT	MECH.	S&H	Total
To borrow books	26 (86.66%)	17 (89.47%)	22 (91.66%)	3 (75%)	13 (86.66%)	19 (90.47%)	30 (85.71%)	130 (87.83%)
To refer books	28 (93.33%)	16 (84.21%)	23 (95.83%)	4 (100%)	12 (80%)	20 (95.23%)	32 (91.42%)	135 (91.21%)
To use E-journals	29 (96.66%)	19 (100%)	24 (100%)	4 (100%)	15 (100%)	21 (100%)	35 (100%)	147 (99.32%)
To use E-books	18 (60.00%)	14 (73.68%)	20 (83.33%)	2 (50%)	12 (80%)	20 (95.23%)	29 (82.85%)	115 (77.70%)
To use back volumes of journals	24 (80.00%)	9 (47.36%)	19 (79.16%)	4 (100%)	10 (66.66%)	19 (90.47%)	31 (88.57%)	116 (78.37%)
To request for inter library loan	25 (83.33%)	18 (94.73%)	21 (87.50%)	4 (100%)	15 (100%)	15 (71.42%)	28 (80%)	126 (85.13%)
To refer project report	18 (60.00%)	12 (63.15%)	17 (70.83%)	2 (50%)	13 (86.66%)	17 (80.95%)	25 (71.42%)	104 (70.27%)
To use print journals	21 (70.00)	16 (84.21%)	22 (91.66%)	4 (100%)	15 (100%)	21 (100%)	33 (94.28%)	132 (89.18%)
To use internet facility	27 (90.00%)	18 (94.73%)	23 (95.83%)	4 (100%)	14 (93.33%)	20 (95.23%)	35 (100%)	141 (95.27%)
To read newspapers	30 (100%)	18 (94.73%)	24 (100%)	4 (100%)	15 (100%)	21 (100%)	35 (100%)	147 (99.32%)
To use audio-visual resources	16 (53.33%)	14 (73.68%)	17 (70.83%)	0 (0.0%)	12 (80%)	19 (90.47%)	22 (62.85%)	100 (67.56%)

Table 4 shows that the purpose of visit to their respective research center libraries. Out of 148 respondents, there are 147 (99.32%) researchers visit the library to use e-journals and news papers, followed by 141 (95.27%) researchers visit the library to use the Internet, 135 (91.21%) researchers visit the library to refer books, 130 (87.83%) researchers visit the library to borrow books, 132 (89.18%) researchers visit library to use print journals and 126 (85.13%) research scholars visit the Library for inter Library Loan and 100 (67.56%) researchers visit library to use to audio-visual resources. It is observed that majority of the research scholars (99.32%) visit the Library to use E-journals and 67.56% researchers visit the Library for audio visual resources.

Table 5 shows that the data relating to researchers' opinion about effectiveness with regard to the accessibility of Effectiveness in Accessing Library Resources in their respective engineering college libraries in pursuing their research work. There are 148 (93.24%) respondents opined that access to books is 'very effective', followed by 105 (70.94%) 'effective', followed by 34 (22.97%) 'somewhat effective', followed by 6 (4.06%) opined 'ineffective' and a very few 2 (1.35%) respondents. opined that access to E-Journals is 'very effective', followed by 107 (72.29%) 'effective', followed by 34 (22.97%) 'somewhat effective', followed by 5 (3.37%) respondents. opined that access to Conference/ workshop/seminars proceedings is 'effective', followed by 44 (29.72%) 'very effective', followed by 33 (22.29%) 'somewhat effective', followed by 12 (8.10%) 'ineffective followed by 2 (1.35%) respondents.

TABLE 5 USERS OPINION ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS IN ACCESSING LIBRARY RESOURCES

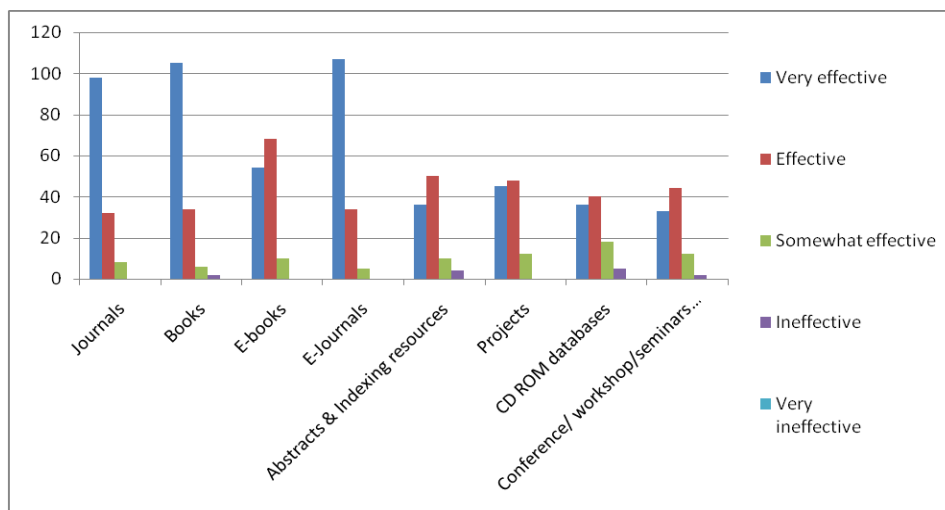| Effectiveness in Accessing Library Resources	Very effective	Effective	Some what effective	Ineffective	Very ineffective	Total
Journals	98 (66.21%)	32 (21.63%)	8 (5.40%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	138 (93.24%)
Books	105 (70.94%)	34 (22.97%)	6 (4.06%)	2 (1.35%)	0 (0.00%)	147 (99.32%)
E-books	54 (36.48%)	68 (45.94%)	10 (6.75%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	132 (89.17%)
E-Journals	107 (72.29%)	34 (22.97%)	5 (3.37%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	146 (98.63%)
Abstracts & Indexing resources	36 (24.32%)	50 (33.78%)	10 (6.75%)	4 (2.70%)	0 (0.00%)	100 (67.55%)
Projects	45 (30.40%)	48 (32.43%)	12 (8.10%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	105 (70.93%)
CD ROM databases	36 (24.32%)	40 (27.02%)	18 (12.16%)	5 (3.37%)	0 (0.00%)	99 (66.87%)
Conference/ workshop/seminars proceedings	33 (22.29%)	44 (29.72%)	12 (8.10%)	2 (1.35%)	0 (0.00%)	91 (61.46%)

Fig.1 User opinion about Effectiveness in Accessing Library Resources

TABLE 6 USERS OPINION ABOUT METHODS USED IN KEEPING ABREAST OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Methods used in Keeping Abreast of Current Developments	Departments-wise No. of Respondents							Total
	CSE	EEE	ECE	E&I	IT	MECH.	S&H	
Browsing journals	28 (93.33%)	18 (94.74%)	22 (91.66)	4 (100%)	15 (100%)	20 (95.23%)	33 (94.28%)	140 (94.59%)
Browsing recent issues of abstracts	26 (86.66%)	16 (84.21%)	20 (83.33%)	3 (75.00%)	13 (86.66%)	18 (85.71%)	30 (85.71%)	126 (85.13%)
Conferences/seminars/ workshop proceedings	24 (80.00%)	15 (78.94%)	19 (79.16%)	2 (50.00%)	11 (73.33%)	16 (70.19%)	26 (74.28%)	113 (76.35%)
Technical reports/ research reports	27 (90.00%)	17 (89.47%)	23 (95.83%)	3 (75.00%)	14 (93.33%)	21 (100%)	32 (91.42%)	137 (92.56%)
Current awareness services	22 (73.33%)	14 (73.68%)	19 (79.16%)	1 (25.00%)	12 (80.00%)	14 (66.66%)	28 (80.00%)	110 (74.32%)
Personal communication/ lectures	26 (86.66%)	18 (94.74%)	24 (100%)	3 (75.00%)	13 (86.66%)	16 (70.19%)	30 (85.71%)	130 (87.83%)

Table 6 shows that the use of different methods by researchers in keeping abreast of latest developments in their research field. There are 140 (94.59%) researchers who indicated that they browse journals to keep abreast of current developments in their research field, followed by 137 (92.56%) researchers access technical reports/research reports, 130 (87.83%) researchers attend personal communication/lectures, 126 (85.13%) researchers browsing recent issues of abstracts, 113 (76.35%) researchers who refer conference/seminars/workshop proceedings, and 110 (74.32%) researchers who use Current awareness services to keep abreast of current developments in their research field. It is observed that in browsing journal of recent issues of respondents from E & I , IT engineering accessed more and respondents in ECE discipline accessed less.
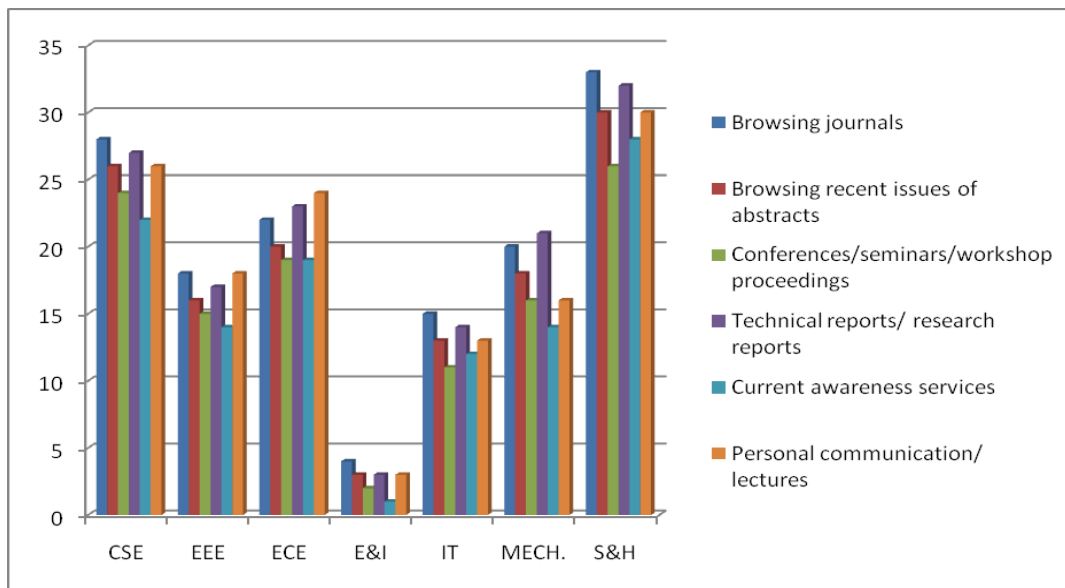

Fig.2 User Opinion about Methods Used in Keeping Abreast of Current Developments

VII. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Major Findings of the Study

1. It is found that the visit 72 (48.64%) visit the library visit twice a week, 52 (35.13%) visit once in a week, 19 (12.83%) respondents visit daily, 5 (3.37%) visit fortnightly.
2. It is found that the positive response about convenience of working hours were more represented in CSE, ECE, Mechanical and S&H departments.
3. It is observed that majority of the research scholars (99.32%) visit the Library to use E- journals and 67.56% researchers visit the Library for audio visual resources.
4. It is found that the E-Journals is 'very effective', followed by 107 (72.29%) 'effective', followed by 34 (22.97%) 'somewhat effective', followed by 5 (3.37%) respondents. opined that access to Conference/ workshop/seminars proceedings.
5. It is found that in browsing journal of recent issues of respondents from E & I , IT engineering accessed more and respondents in ECE discipline accessed less.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In the current education era, library is considered as one of the important resource centre. With the use of effective tools pertaining to information and technology, library is an playing effective role and integral component for any high quality research institution, irrespective of any specialization. In the present scenario, many of the technical libraries are supportive to research, providing multidisciplinary, multi-mode, multi-media information to the researchers. The present study found the strength and weaknesses of performance of researchers of R.M.K. group of engineering college libraries through rigorous analysis of the data, researchers under study. It is found that all the R.M.K Group of engineering colleges have adequate collection of books and Journals for their users. A continues feedback from the users particularly research scholars need to be maintained for the improvement of libraries to upgrade.

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