

A Study on usage of Electronics Resources by the Faculty Members and Under Graduate Students of Arts and Science Colleges in Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu

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Abstract

The present study describes the effective utilization of electronic resources by the faculty members and Under Graduate Students of Arts and Science Colleges in Kanchipuram District of Tamilnadu. The primary purpose of college libraries is to support teaching, learning, and research in ways consistent with, and supportive of, the institution's mission and goals. In addition, library resources and services should be sufficient in quality, depth, diversity, and currency to support the institution's curriculum. As a result of this, college libraries are often considered the most important resource center of an academic institution. However, college education in Kanchipuram District is facing a critical challenge in meeting new demands of the 21st century, with its ever increasing population growth, inadequate library facilities, resources and insufficient funding. The growth of research in all fields of human endeavor is becoming increasingly detailed and sophisticated, faculty members and Under Graduate Students have realized that the library has great roles to play in the provision of information necessary for their day to day learning and teaching. This study reveals that availability of electronic resources, frequency of using electronic resources, purpose of using electronic resources, time spend, Place of accessing electronic resources and satisfaction level of using digital resources.

Keywords: Electronic Resources , Arts and Science College, Faculty Members, Under Graduate Students.

1. Introduction

Electronic resources are the resources when the information available in the electronic format, on the web and CD-ROM format. Electronic resources have played a vital role in all fields of human life. College library plays an important role in promoting research and development in the country. Now a days the electronic resources are becoming more and more valuable. The printed resources are now being digitized, which has given in the increase of the availability of books and Journals in the electronic format. List of Kanchipuram district are:

1. Pachaiyappa's College for Men, Kanchipuram, Kanchipuram
2. Pachaiyappa's College for Women, Kanchipuram, Kanchipuram
3. Rajeswari Vedachalam Government Arts College, Kanchipuram
4. Annai Theresa College of Arts and Science, Kanchipuram
5. Apollo Arts and Science College, Kanchipuram
6. C.S.I. Edward Women's Christian College, Kanchipuram
7. Kanchi Kamatchi Amman Arts and Science College for Women, Kanchipuram Taluk

8. Kanchi Shri Krishna College of Arts and Science, Kanchipuram
9. Meenakshi Ammal Arts and Science College for Women, Uthiramerur
10. Pattammal Alagesan College of Arts and Science, Kanchipuram
11. SCSVMV University (Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya), Kancheepuram
12. Sri Muthukumaran Arts and Science College, Chennai
13. Sri Sankara Arts and Science College, Kanchipuram and
14. Vidhya Sagar Women's College, Chengalpattu etc.,

2. Literature Review

Ajuwon studied physicians' use of Internet for health information for patient care at the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, Nigeria. The findings revealed that 98 per cent of the respondents used Internet. A majority (76 per cent) accessed Internet from cyber cafes. Ninety per cent reported that they obtained information for patient care from the Internet. Of the 90 per cent, 76.2 per cent searched a database.

Asemi did a case study of Medical Sciences University of Isfahan, Iran. The results of the study showed that all the respondents used Internet frequently because all faculties had an Internet connection. It was revealed that the researchers of the university were getting quality health information and patient care through Internet. Fifty-five per cent of respondents searched Internet for scientific health information because the university library provided access to databases and online journals to both students and staff.

Lohar and Roopashree analysed data to cover the use of electronic resources, how the electronic resources improved the academic career of the faculty, and the problems faced while using the electronic resources. They conclude that the main intention of the use of electronic resources was the academic interest of the users.

Natarjan described electronic resources, electronic journals and the role of academic library, and comparison and usage of electronics and print journals. He also discussed use of electronic journals by undergraduates and graduates in an academic environment, behaviour of people towards e-journals, and the future of the print media.

Steffy and Meyer reported the results of a survey of CD-ROM use at the Jean and Alexandar Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee. CD-ROM users were analysed by status (graduate, undergraduate, faculty, staff and other). Relative use of 20 CD-ROM products was studied by patron status. Data was presented for users ratings of: ease of use, satisfaction with numbers of citations retrieved, and value of citations retrieved. User's suggestions to improve the products, the time spent searching products, and the time patrons spent conducting their searches were reported. Patrons who used CD-ROM liked these enough to recommend these to their friends.

3. Need for the Present Study

College libraries have made a significant investment in electronic information resources and in computer-based technologies in general and the Internet in particular as a need on the part of librarians to provide technology mediated information services to the clientele.

4. Limitations of the Study

The present study is covered five Arts and Science College faculties and UG Students in Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu. The research had adopted census method for data collection. This study had the following limitations

- The study is limited only to the Arts & Science college faculties and Under Graduate Students.
- Time period to conduct the study was very limited.
- Some of the respondents don't answer the question seriously.

5. Objectives of the Study

The important objectives of the study are as follows:

- To find out the Experience in using electronic resources by the faculty members and UG Students in the Arts and Science Colleges.
- To find out the frequency and time spend on using electronic resources.
- To find out the purpose and place of using electronic resources by the Faculty members and UG Students.
- To study the frequently used electronic resources.
- To study the usefulness and satisfaction level of using electronic resources.

6. Methodology

Keeping in view the above objectives in mind, a well-structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data from users of electronic resources in the Arts and Science Colleges. Questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to use of electronic information resources. For this purpose a total of 585 questionnaire were distributed among the faculty members and UG Students, Out of 585 questionnaires distributed 539 valid questionnaire were collected and then data was analysed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in this paper.

7. Analysis and Discussion

A total of 585 questionnaire was distributed among all the two categories of users i.e., faculty members and Under Graduates Students pertain to five different colleges to find out the utilization of electronic resources. Of these, a total of 539 questionnaires duly filled by the respondents were received back. The overall response is 92.14 percent. An account of category wise response status of distribution of questionnaire has been outlined in table 1.

Table 1.College wise Distribution of Questionnaire and response

College	Questionnaire Distributed		Total	Percentage	Received		Total	Percentage
	Faculty	UG Students			Faculty	UG Students		
Apollo Arts and Science College, Kanchipuram	55	146	201	35.36	52	121	173	32.10
Meenakshi Ammal Arts and Science College for Women	29	45	74	12.65	27	43	70	12.99
Rajeswari Vedachalam Government Arts College, Kanchipuram	41	-	41	7.01	40	-	40	7.42
Annai Theresa College	18	28	46	7.86	18	26	44	8.14

of Arts and Science, Kanchipuram								
Sri Sankara Arts and Science College, Kanchipuram	57	166	225	38.12	53	159	212	39.33
Total	200	385	585	100.00	190 (95.00)	349 (90.65)	539 (92.19)	100.00

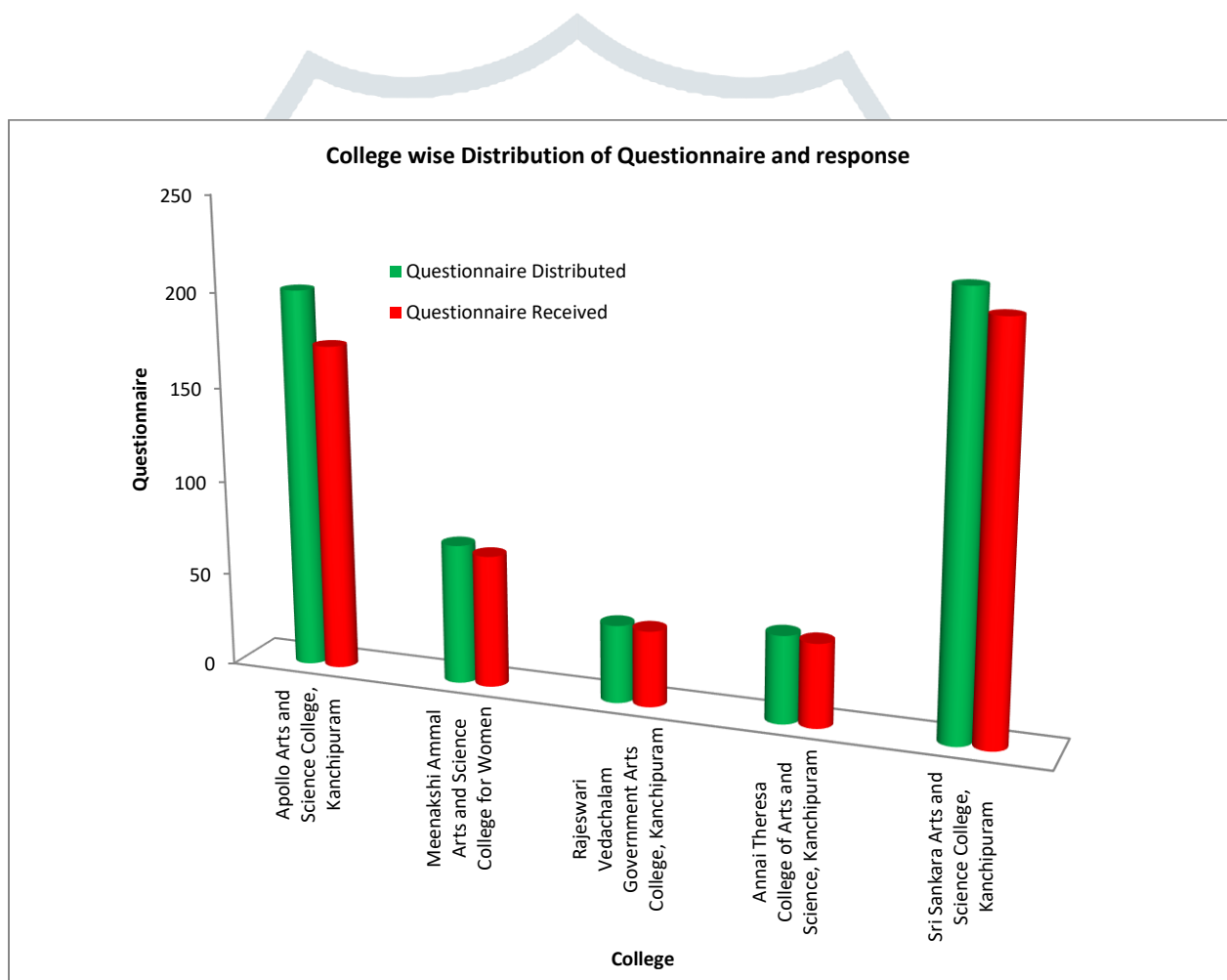


Figure 1: College wise Distribution of Questionnaire and response

Table 1 shows that out of 200 questionnaires distributed to the faculty members, 190 responses which accounts for 95.00 percent were received back. With regard to the response of Under graduate students, 349 responses out of 385 questionnaire distributed were received back which accounts of 90.65 percent. However, it was found that the response of faculty members stands first sharing 95.00 percent followed by Under Graduate Students.

Table 2. Status wise Distribution of Respondents Time spent in using Electronics Resources.

Time Spent	No. of Respondents				Total	Percentage
	Faculty	Percentage	UG Students	Percentage		
Less than one hour	18	9.47	43	14.32	61	11.32
One Hour	93	48.9	177	50.72	270	50.09
Two Hours	51	26.84	78	22.35	129	23.49
More than two hours	28	14.74	51	14.61	79	14.66
Total	190		349		539	

Table 2 shows the time spent in using electronic resources. It is absorbed from the table that, out of a total 539 respondents, 270(50.09%) respondents spend one hour in a day for using electronic resources, followed by 129(23.93%) respondents spend two hours in a day, 79(14.66%) respondents spend more than two hours in a day and 61(11.32%) respondents spend less than an hour in a day for using electronic resources.

As far as the status wise break up of 93(48.95%) faculty and 177(50.72%) Under Graduate Students spend one hour in a day for using electronic resources.

Table 3. Status wise Distribution of Respondents Experience in using Electronic Resources

Experience	No. of Respondents				Total N=539	Percentage
	Faculty	Percentage	UG Students	Percentage		
Less than a year	03	1.58	41	11.75	44	8.16
One Year	06	3.16	62	17.77	68	12.62
Two Years	12	6.32	58	16.62	70	12.99
Three Years	26	13.68	107	30.66	133	24.68
More than Three Years	143	75.26	81	23.21	224	41.56
Total	190		349		539	

Table 3 shows the status wise distribution of respondents experience in using electronic resources. It is seen from the table that, out of a total of 539 respondents, 224(41.56%) respondents have been accessing electronic resources for more than three years, followed by 133(24.68%) respondents have been accessing for three years, 70(12.99%) respondents have been accessing for two years, 68(12.62%) respondents have been accessing for one year and 44(8.16%) respondents have been accessing electronic resources less than a year.

As far as the status wise break up of respondents is concerned with the experience in using electronic resources, 143(75.26%) faculty members and 107(30.66%) Under Graduate Students have been accessing electronic resources for more than three years and three years respectively.

Table 4. Status wise Distribution of Respondents Adequacy of using Electronic Resources.

Adequacy	No. of Respondents				Total N=539	Percentage
	Faculty	Percentage	UG Students	Percentage		
Always	105	55.26	195	55.87	300	55.56
Sometime	83	43.68	149	42.69	232	43.04
Never	02	1.05	05	1.43	07	1.30
Total	190		349		539	

Table 4 depicts the result of the adequacy of using electronic resources among the respondents of Arts and Science Colleges. The result indicates that, 300(55.66%) respondents were always using electronic resources, followed by 232(43.04%) respondents were sometime using and 7(1.30%) respondents were never using electronics resources.

It could be seen clearly from the above table that, 105(55.26%) faculty members and 195(55.87%) Under Graduate Students of Arts and Science Colleges were always using electronic resources.

Table 5. Status wise Distribution of Respondents place of accessing Electronic Resources.

Place of Access	No. of Respondents				Total	Percentage
	Faculty	Percentage	UG Students	Percentage		
Library	121	63.68	301	86.25	422	78.29
Department	110	57.89	101	28.94	211	39.15
Residence	130	68.42	291	83.38	421	78.11
Cybercafé	78	41.05	218	62.46	296	54.92

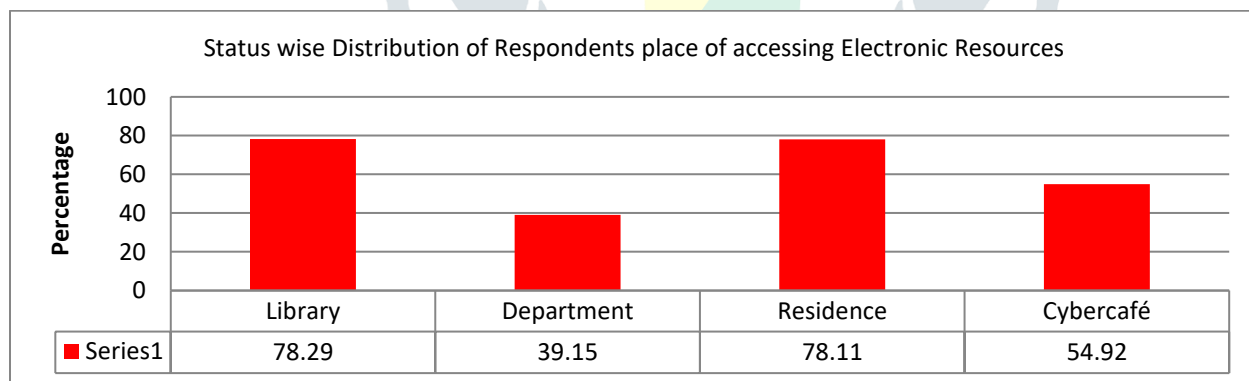


Figure 2. Status wise Distribution of Respondents place of accessing Electronic Resources

Table 5 presents the results of place from where the faculty members and UG Students of Arts and Science Colleges had access to electronic resources. There were four options viz., Library, Department, Residence and Cybercafe. The result reveals that, 422(78.29%) respondents accessed electronic resources through library, 211(39.11%) respondents accessed through at department, 421(78.11%) respondents accessed through at Residence and 296(54.92%) respondents accessed through commercially available café.

Thus the data shows that most of the faculty members and Under Graduate Students of all the five Arts and Science Colleges were using electronic resources at library and residence.

Table 6. Status wise Distribution of Respondents purpose of using Electronic Resources

Purpose	No. of Respondents				Total	Percentage
	Faculty	Percentage	UG Students	Percentage		
Teaching	138	72.63	00	00	138	2.60
Study	7	30.00	321	91.98	378	70.13
Research	83	43.68	00	00	83	15.40
Keeping up-to Date information	142	74.74	312	89.40	454	84.23
Finding Relevant information	121	63.68	228	65.33	349	64.75
Publishing Article /Books	87	45.79	24	6.88	111	20.9
Entertainment	37	19.47	40	11.46	77	14.29
Chatting	31	16.3	35	10.03	66	12.24

Note: The Percentage is exceeded to more than 100% because of multiple choice options.

Data presented in table 6 shows the opinion about the purpose of using electronic resources. It is clearly observed from the table that 454(84.23%) respondents have used e-resources for keeping up-to-date information, followed by 378(70.13%) respondents have used for their study purposes, 349(64.75%) respondents have used for finding relevant information, 138(25.60%) respondents have used for their teaching, 111(20.59%) respondents have used for publishing articles, 83(15.40%) respondents have used e-resources for their research purpose, 77(14.29%) respondents have used for their entertainment and 66(12.24%) respondents have used for their chatting purpose.

As far as status wise breakup of respondents is concerned with the purpose of using electronic resources, 142(74.74%) faculty members and 312(89.40%) UG Students have used electronic resources for keeping up-to-date information.

Table 7. Status wise distribution of respondents frequently used Electronic Resources

Electronic Resources	Distribution of Resources					
	Faculty	Percentage	UG Students	Percentage	Total	Percentage
E-Journals	167	87.89	204	58.45	371	68.83
E-Books	112	58.95	110	31.52	222	41.19
e-Conference proceedings	98	51.58	88	25.21	186	34.51
e-Data base	101	53.16	104	29.80	205	38.03
Open Source Literature	87	45.49	128	36.68	215	39.89
e-Reference Resources	79	41.58	114	32.66	193	35.81
Student and Faculty generated contents	83	43.68	124	35.53	207	38.40
e-thesis and Dissertations	94	49.47	77	22.06	171	31.73
e-News papers and	114	60.00	137	37.22	251	46.7

Magazines						
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Note: The Percentage is exceeded to more than 100% because of multiple choice options.

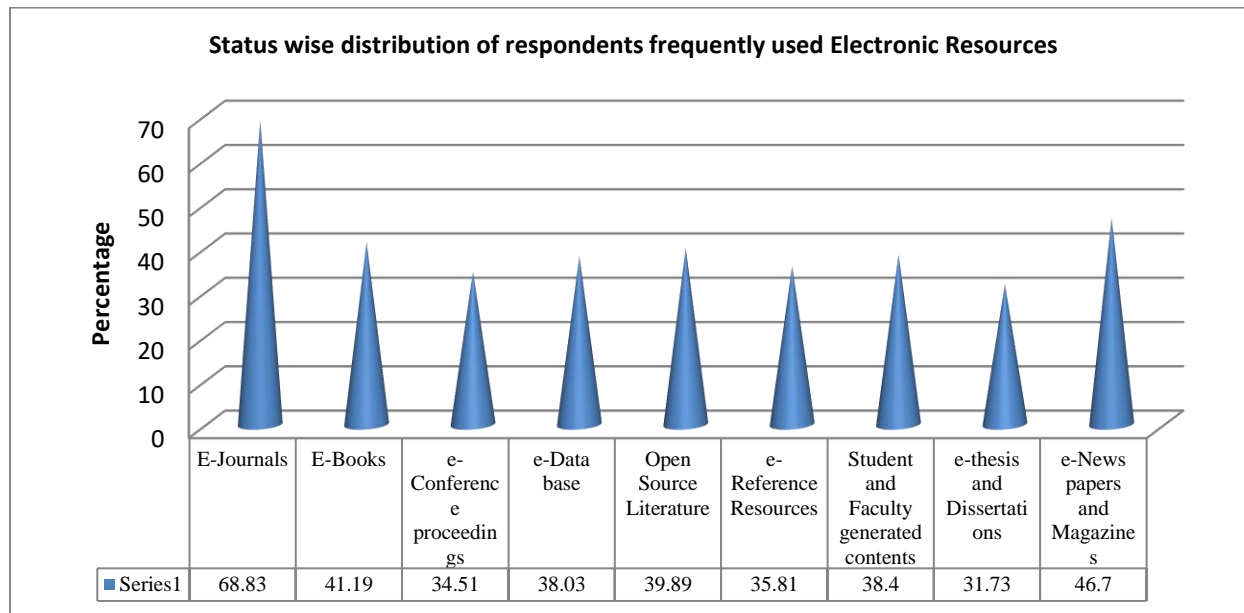


Figure :3 Status wise distribution of respondents frequently used Electronic Resources

The details of the various types of electronic resources used are presented in Table 7. It is observed from the table that, 371(68.83%) respondents are used e-journals, followed by 251(46.57%) respondents are used e-Newspapers and magazines, 222(41.19%) respondents are used e-books, 215(39.89%) respondents are used open sources literature, 207(38.40%) respondents are used student and faculty generated contents, 205(38.03%) respondents are used e-database, 193(35.83%) respondents are used e-reference sources, 184(34.51%) respondents are used e-conferences proceedings and 171(31.73%) respondents are used e-Thesis and dissertations.

It could be seen clearly from the above table that 167(87.89%) faculty members and 204(58.54%) Under Graduates Students are used e-Journals followed by e-newspapers and magazines.

Table 8. Status wise Distribution of Respondents benefits of using electronic resources

Benefits	No. of Respondents				Total	Percentage
	Faculty	Percentage	UG Students	Percentage		
Time Savings	138	72.63	301	86.25	439	81.45
Better Sources of Information	121	63.68	298	85.39	419	77.74
Access to up-to-date information	178	93.68	317	90.83	495	91.84
Information available in various formats as per the need.	142	74.74	217	62.18	359	66.60
Improvement in the quality of Professional Work	131	68.95	67	19.20	198	36.73
27/7 Access to e-	181	95.26	281	80.52	462	85.71

resources						
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Note: The Percentage is exceeded to more than 100% because of multiple choice options.

Table 8 presents an interesting results about the benefits of using electronic resources. The result reveals that, 495(91.84%) respondents were of the opinion that access to up-to-date information, followed by 462(85.71%) respondents were of the opinion that the time savings, 419(77.74%) respondents were of the opinion that the better sources of information, 359(66.60%) respondents were of the opinion that information available in various formats as per the need and 198(36.73%) respondents were of the opinion that improvement in the quantify of professional work.

Thus, it is clear from the above table, 91.84 percent of the respondents were of the opinion the benefits of the electronic resources were access to up-to-date information.

Table 9. Status wise Distribution of respondents satisfaction level of Electronic Resources

Level of Satisfaction	No. of Respondents				Total	Percentage
	Faculty	Percentage	UG Students	Percentage		
Highly Satisfied	21	11.0	3	15.19	74	13.73
Satisfied	72	37.89	135	38.68	207	38.40
Somewhat Satisfied	74	38.95	124	35.53	198	36.73
Dissatisfied	18	9.47	24	6.88	42	7.79
Cannot Say	0	2.63	13	3.72	18	3.39
Total	190		349		539	

Table 9 shows status wise distribution of respondents satisfaction level of electronic resources. It is observed from the table that out of a total of 539 respondents, 207(38.40%) respondents are satisfied with electronic resources, followed by 198(36.73%) respondents are somewhat satisfied, 74(13.73%) respondents are highly satisfied, 42(7.79%) respondents are dissatisfied and 18(3.34%) respondents are cannot say their opinion about electronic resources.

As far as status wise break up of respondents is concerned with the satisfaction level of electronic resources, 74(38.95%) faculty members are somewhat satisfied and 135(38.28%) respondents are satisfied with electronic resources.

8. Findings of the Study

Based on the analysis of data, the following findings are made:

- 133(24.68%) respondents have been accessing electronic resources for more than three years.
- 300(55.56%) respondents are always using e-resources.
- 79(14.66%) respondents are using the electronic resources more than once in a week.
- 278(50.09%) respondents spend one hour per day.
- 421(78.11%) respondents accessed electronic resources through at residence.
- 454(84.23%) respondents have used electronic resources for keeping up-to-date information.

- 371(68.83%) respondents used e-journals.
- 207(38.40%) respondents were satisfied about electronic resources.
- 495(91.84%) respondents benefited with access up-to-date information.

9. Conclusion

College library plays an important role in promoting electronic resources for the benefit of user. From the above study it is revealed that majority of the respondents are accessing electronic resources for the purpose of keeping up-to-date information and they are satisfied with electronic resources.

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