

## Usage of Electronic Resources by the Users of SVIT LIBRARY-Vasad, Gujarat, India: A study

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### Abstract

In recent years, electronic resources have become most popular sources of information for library users and library professionals. The present study was designed to find out the necessity and usage of electronic resources by the users of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Technology, Vasad, Gujarat, India. This study is based on survey method. Data collected through questionnaire, interview and observation techniques. Response of 100 students and 50 faculty members were taken for data analysis and interpretation. Results show that majority of students and all the faculty members are aware with the electronic resources. A large majority of students and all the faculty members are using Internet and E-Journals for academic purposes. Maximum number of students and faculty members admit that electronic resources can be good substitute for conventional resources. Study also reveals that students and faculty members are also faced the problem in using electronic resources like generation of redundant information and lack of subject coverage. Some recommendations also have been given to improve the use of electronic resources.

**Keywords:** Accessing, Electronic resources, Internet, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Technology, Library users of SVIT.

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### Introduction

Libraries have transformed into digital and virtual libraries where books, journals, magazines and newspapers have changed into e-books, e-journals, e-magazines and e-newspapers.

The printed resources are now being digitized, which has given rise in increases of the availability of books and journals in the electronic format. The electronic books are helpful because of their easy portability and its feature of incorporating more than one book in a single hand held device. Electronic resources are easily accessible in the remote areas. This has increased the global dissemination of information. The electronic resources available in a library play a prominent role in facilitating access to required information to the users in an easy and expeditious manner. The electronic resources like online books, online journals, CD-ROM databases, internet and OPACs etc. are slowly replacing the importance and usage of print media.

It is imperative that one should be familiar with the use and exploitation of electronic resource for their quick and effective usage for promotion of academic excellence and research. With the development of electronic resources collection in various universities and colleges are increasing. Electronic resources have become as boons to the engineering and management students and attract them in the digital environments in their limited amount of time. Use of electronic resources by engineering and management students may lead to update knowledge in their respective subject field and improve the quality of learning, as well as play a vital role in education and research. In many cases these material are not "physically owned" by the library in the same sense that printed book or

journal may be owned, but instead the library has acquired specific access right to the material on behalf of library clientele. Some of the important electronic resources are E-Books, E-Journals, Indexing and abstracting databases, Reference databases, Numeric and statistical databases, E-images, E-audio/visual resources.

### Objectives of the Study

1. To know the awareness and use of electronic resources.
2. To know the types of electronic resources available.
3. To know the purpose and frequency of using electronic resources.
4. To know the views of library users of SVIT-Vasad regarding training program for using electronic resources.
5. To find out the problems faced by the students and faculty members in access and use of electronic resources.
6. To find out the satisfaction level of students and faculty members regarding use of electronic resources.
7. To study the impact of electronic resources on the academic works of students and faculty members.
8. To suggest measures for better use of electronic resources.

**Scope of the Study:** The present study aims to fulfill the academic needs of students and faculty members through the use of electronic resources.

### What are Digital Resources?

An electronic resources are any consistent publication in digital form that is being marketed or any digital product that delivers a collections of data, be it

text, numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available resources and includes full text databases, electronic journals, image collections, multimedia products, collections of numerical data. An electronic resource can be defined as any computer available information source containing facts, perspectives, or information on a topic of interest. An electronic resource can also be defined as a selected and organized set of digital materials (objects) along with the metadata that describe them and at least one interface that gives access to them. Thus, we can say that a digital resource is anything which is published in computer readable format.

### **Importance of Digital Resources**

Some reasons that have contributed to the growing importance of digitization and electronic resources are:

1. Access to information is instant.
2. Effective searching can be possible to retrieve particular information.
3. Presentation of information through the electronic resources can be done within a reasonable time with speed and ease.
4. Multiple accesses to electronic resources are possible.
5. Downloading of the required information is very easy.
6. Addition of information to the collection of electronic resource is faster.
7. Cataloguing, editing, referring, indexing, etc. can be done with ease and speed.
8. The quality of information service can be improved and maintained.
9. Through the electronic resource education and training can be provided effectively.
10. Career planning and related information can be accessible using the electronic resources of information.

### **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Technology, Vasad (SVIT)**

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Technology (SVIT) was established in 1997 by The New English School Trust (NEST) with three B. E. programs having annual intake of 180 students. Now, the institute runs eight B. E. programs, Six M.E programs, MCA and B.Arch.with annual intake of 450 students. At present the total number of students in the institute is 4000. SVIT has well equipped laboratories, computer center, Wi-Fi campus, rich library, training and placement cell, fully air-conditioned seminar hall and 300 capacity auditorium, administration and account section, canteen, indoor and outdoor games facilities etc.

Institute has highly qualified, capable, professional and dedicated faculty members. In addition, to ensure that the students have the latest and up to date technological information and knowledge, highly qualified and distinguished professors from other institutes and experts from industry are invited for giving lectures to students. As a result standard of

education in the institute is very high and the results in the university examinations are very good. It provides highly conducive environment for Education.

The campus placement is very good in leading companies of India with a very high pay package.

**Central Library:** Central library of SVIT is located in academic area. It has a carpet area of 1397 Sqm. There is sitting capacity of 300 users at a time. The library follows open access system for its users. It is fully computerized and using the library management software SOUL 20 network version.

The mission of the central library is to provide information services and access to bibliographic and full text digital and printed resources to students, faculty and staff of the institute.

**Resources:** Central library has rich collection of more than 50,000 documents which includes books and bound volumes of periodicals. The library subscribed 120 national, 90 International (Print) journals and 42 magazines. 1800+ e-books and 200+ NPTEL video lectures. The library also subscribed online databases such as DELNET. The collection is mainly strong in Science and Technology. However, substantial quality information sources on humanities and social sciences are also available. It is well equipped with all modern facilities and resources in the form of CD-ROM, Online databases, Audio-Video Cassettes, Books, Journals, Standards, Specifications, Theses, and Reports etc. Central library is committed to provide a world class information support to its users.

SVIT currently involved in utilizing the networked information resources for providing recent and most comprehensive access to the faculty, student, staff, and alumnus under internet and intranet environments.

**Services:** Library provides various services to its users like circulation, reference, current awareness; SMS alert system, document delivery service and reprography etc. Library also provides various value added services including internet, printing, scanning, book reservation, inter-library loan, access to e-resources, standards information and reading hall services.

### **Materials and Method**

The study is based on survey method and uses questionnaire technique. The investigator visited various department of SVIT and approached the students and faculty members and distributed the questionnaire for data collection. A total number of 100 questionnaires were distributed among the students.

Out of which 90 filled in questionnaires were return back by the students. Similarly, 50 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members. Out of which 40filled in questionnaires were received back. The investigator also personally consulted students and faculty members to discuss about the use of electronic resources. Besides this observation method was also used to observe the effective use of electronic resources.

**Data Analysis and Interpretation**

**Table 1: Awareness about Electronic Resources**

Awareness	Students		Faculty members	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of faculty	Percentage
Yes	80	88.89%	40	100%
No	10	11.11%	00	00%
Total	90	100	40	100

Table 1 indicates that the majority 80 (88.89%) of the students and 40 (100.00%) faculty members are aware about the electronic resources. Whereas, remaining 10 (11.11%) of the students are not aware about electronic resources.

**Table 2: Frequency of using Electronic Resources**

Frequency	Students		Faculty members	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of faculty	Percentage
Dailey	40	44.44%	30	75%
Weekly	35	38.89%	10	25%
Monthly	15	16.67%	0	
Never	0		0	
Total	90	100	40	100

Table 2 indicates that the majority 40 (44.44%) of the students and 30 (75%) faculty members are using electronic resources Dailey. Whereas, remaining 35 (38.89%) of the students and 10 (25%) are using weekly of electronic resources.

**Table 3: Time spent using Electronic Resources**

Frequency	Students		Faculty members	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of faculty	Percentage
One hour	50	55.55%	25	62.50%
Two hour	30	33.33%	10	25%
More than two hours	10	11.11%	5	12.50%
Total	90	100	40	100

Table 3 indicates that the majority 50 (55.55%) of the students and 25 (62.5%) faculty members spent one hour using e-resources. Whereas, 30(33.33%) of the students and 10 (25%) are using e-resources for two hours.

**Table 4: Purpose of using Electronic Resources**

\*It is a multiple choice question so percentage cannot be rounded after 100

Frequency	Students		Faculty members	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of faculty	Percentage
For academic assignments	40	44.44	25	62.5
For research/project work	65	72.22	35	87.5
To keep up-to-date on subjects of interest	25	27.78	15	37.5
For seminar/ conference /workshop	45	50	30	75
Other	20	22.22	10	25

Table 4 indicates that the majority 65 (72.22) of the students and 35(87.5) faculty members are using electronic resources for research work. Whereas, 45 (50) of the students and 30(75) of faculty are using e-resources for seminar work.

**Table 5: Problems faced while using Electronic Resources**

\*It is a multiple choice question so percentage cannot be rounded after 100.

Frequency	Students		Faculty members	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of faculty	Percentage
Internet access	60	66.67	30	75
Non co-operative attitude of staff	10	11.11	5	12.5
Insufficient number of computers	25	27.78	20	50
Lack of subject coverage	35	38.89	25	62.5
Other	20	22.22	20	50

Table 5 indicates that the majority 60 (66.67%) of the students and 30 (75%) faculty members are facing internet access problems. Whereas, 35 (38.89%) of students and 25(62.5) faculty are facing lake of subject coverage.

**Table 6: Use of Electronic Resources**

\*It is a multiple choice question so percentage cannot be rounded after 100

Frequency	Students		Faculty members	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of faculty	Percentage
E-books	55	61.11	35	87.5
E-Journals	45	50	35	87.5
Internet	90	100	40	100
CD Roms	25	27.78	30	75
Online database	10	11.11	25	62.5

Table 6 indicates that the majority 90 (100%) of the students and 40 (100.00%) faculty members are using internet. Whereas, 55 (61.11%) of the students and 35(87.5) of faculty are using e-books.

**Table 7: Searched strategies used for accessing Electronic Resources**

\*It is a multiple choice question so percentage cannot be rounded after 100

Frequency	Students		Faculty members	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of faculty	Percentage
Title	70	77.78	40	100
Author	60	66.67	38	95
Key words	60	66.67	38	95
Subject	50	55.55	20	50
Publisher	25	27.78	10	25

Table 7 indicates that the majority 70 (77.78%) of the students and 40 (100%) faculty members are searched through titles. Whereas, 60 (66.67%) of the students and 38(95) of faculty are searched through author and keywords to search electronic resources.

**Major Findings**

1. Majority of the students 89.89% and faculty members 100.00% are aware of electronic resources.
2. Students 44.44% and faculty members 75% use electronic resources daily.
3. Students 55.55% and faculty 62.5% spent one hour daily in using electronic resources.
4. A large majority 100% of the student’s uses and 100.00% of the faculty members use internet and e-books 61.11% and 87.5% respectively as electronic resources.
5. Majority of the students 72.22% and 87.5% of the faculty use electronic resource for research/ project work and maximum 50% of the student and 75% of

the faculty members use electronic resources for publishing articles / research papers /books.

6. Majority of the students 77.78% and faculty members 100% use title search for accessing the electronic resources.
7. Student 66.67% and faculty members 75% stated that internet access is the main problem in using electronic resources followed by lack of subject coverage is also problem in using electronic resources.

**Limitations of the Study**

The major limitations of the study are:

1. It consists only the use of electronic resources by the students and faculty members

2. The geographical area is restricted to SVIT library, Vasad only.
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### **Conclusion**

The study showed that the behavior of students and faculty members is changing. They are giving more importance to electronic versions of documents. With the availability of more resources through the internet with high speed connectivity the demand for electronic resources in their specific subject is increasing. So, electronic resource development in academic libraries is the need of the hour. Accordingly, the libraries have to electronic resources along with print documents assessing the requirement of the academic community. These have radically changed the way the information is gathered, organized, accessed and consumed. These can prove a great asset to support teaching and learning programs of the institute if faster and easier access to all the required electronic resources is provided to students and faculty members.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made to improve the use of digital resources among the students and faculty members:

1. Awareness among the students and faculty members should be created to use electronic resources to obtain current information.
2. The website and newsletter of the institute should highlight the available electronic resources in the library regularly.
3. All the information of the holding of the library has to be made available electronically so that the students can retrieve information very quickly and easily.
4. Reputed publishers e-books, e-journals, e-databases, and other digital resources should be procured by the library which is not subscribed.
5. Students and faculty members are to be engaged in the process of selection of digital resources as they are the ultimate users of these resources.

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