

## Postgraduate students' approaches to E-resources in the Academic Library with Reference to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

<sup>1</sup>Dr. C. Catherin Beula, <sup>2</sup>Dr. P. Balasubramanian\*

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### Author's Affiliation:

<sup>1</sup>Librarian, TDMNS College, T. Kallikulam, Tirunelveli-627 113, Tamil Nadu, India.

E-mail: beulah.catherin@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>University Librarian & Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli-627 012, Tamil Nadu, India.

E-mail: bala\_phd2010@yahoo.com

**\*Corresponding Author:** Dr. P. Balasubramanian, University Librarian & Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli-627 012, Tamil Nadu, India.

E-mail: bala\_phd2010@yahoo.com

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### ABSTRACT

Electronic sources are faster and easier to use than print indexes when finding information. We can search multiple files simultaneously faster than flipping through book pages. Plus, we could save our searches and resources for future use. Electronic resources are updated more frequently than print materials, too. One of the biggest benefits of electronic resources is that they can be accessed from anywhere with dial-up access, which is great for people who can't attend the library in person. The researcher took the initiative to analyse the P.G. students' approaches to e-resources available in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library at Tirunelveli. The researcher constructed a strong questionnaire based on previous studies and consulted with field experts. The research supervisor made some corrections in the light of the field experts. The researcher randomly selected 150 P.G. students from the study area and distributed the questionnaire. The researcher received only 120 fully completed questionnaires from the respondents.

**KEYWORDS:** Postgraduate students, attitude and approaches, E-resources Manonmaniam Sundaranar University

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### INTRODUCTION

Electronic information sources offer today's users different opportunities from their predecessors. E-resource is an electronic information resource accessed online, on or off campus. Material (data or program(s) encoded for manipulation by a computerised device. This material may require a peripheral directly

connected to an automated device (e.g. CDROM drive) or a computer network (e.g. Internet). E-resource is defined as a resource which requires 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 the Internet, etc.

Over the past few years, several techniques and related standards have been developed, allowing documents to be created and distributed electronically. Hence, to cope with the present situation, libraries are shifting towards new media, namely electronic resources, for their collection developments so that the demands of users are better fulfilled. 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 than acquiring information resources, savings in storage and maintenance, etc., and sometimes the electronic form is the only alternative.

#### **PROFILE OF SAMPLE UNIT**

Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (M.S.U.) is a dynamic higher learning institution set in a rural milieu of southern Tamil Nadu, with a campus spread of 550 acres. The University was established by the Government of Tamil Nadu as a teaching-cum-affiliating University on 7 September 1990 to cater to the long-felt needs of the people of the three southernmost districts of Tamil Nadu, viz., Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Thoothukudi, and Kanyakumari. It is named after the renowned Tamil Poet scholar, Professor P. Sundaram Pillai (1855-1897), the author of the famous verse drama Manonmaniam. His poem has become "Tamil Thai Vazhthu", the official invocation song sung at all functions in Tamilnadu. The motto of the University is "Reaching the Unreached". Around 2400 students are studying in this institution directly. The University has 91 affiliated Colleges, 6 University Colleges and 3 Constituent Colleges, with about 1,20,000 students in regular mode and 40,000 students in distance mode. These colleges, amongst which three are over 100 years old, viz., St. John's College, M.D.T. Hindu College, and Sarah Tucker College, the oldest women's college in the state, have contributed decisively to the cause of higher education in this region. The university's primary focus is to

produce individuals with the expertise and intellectual curiosity to make a difference in their profession and society and to conduct the research needed to meet contemporary challenges. This is keeping us in line with the Vision-2023 document of our Honourable Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Ms J. Jayalalithaa, and her aim to impart quality higher education to the students. Most of this University's students belong to rural and economically weaker sections of society. Hence, this University imparts education at a nominal and affordable cost. The curricula of the courses offered by this University are periodically updated, and the University has resourceful teachers to deliver the same.

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

**Smitha Elayadom C. and Thirunavukkarasu A. (2018)** enlightened that information and knowledge have gained superiority in the present age, where people believe that information is the most potent weapon that leads a nation to progress. Knowledge is considered the most critical asset that leads a country to progress and development. The Universities impart knowledge, and the University Libraries, where knowledge accumulates, support the curriculum. Hence, knowledge management gains importance. ICT is the primary tool that helps library professionals to provide better service to the users. The paper examines whether ICT enhances K.M. in University Libraries and its effectiveness for the users. It is part of the study conducted to analyse the application of K.M. in University Libraries in Kerala'.

**Sapna Rani and PayareLal (2020)** explain that 'Web technology and its applications are matters of great concern in this highly innovative environment and shaping this world so that every new possibility has a chance of contemporary creativity and innovation. The main objective of this paper is to present the findings of a webometric analysis of the websites of state health Sciences University's of India. This study was conducted in September 2018 using Alexa Traffic Rank, Google Page Rank and Google search engine for rich files of respective websites of 18 state health Sciences

University's of India. As per the Alexa Traffic Ranking, Dr N.T.R. University of Health Sciences and Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences University's of Andhra Pradesh State were top. Ayush and Health Sciences University of Chhattisgarh State leads the Google Page ranking system list of universities. The Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences of Telangana State was placed in 1st rank for rich files. The present study will provide information to eliminate the barriers to improving the websites of state health sciences universities in India to make these websites more effective in fulfilling users' needs.

**Shashi P Singh (2021)** stated that PowerPoint presentations were used in a demonstration to explain how to use various types of e-resources and databases, both subscribed and in the public domain. The feedback analysis found that instruction materials were functional (94.90%), 88.47% of respondents are better prepared to use e-resources and WWW services, and 92.80% agreed that the programs fit their information needs. Regarding the post-program awareness of e-sources, 94.01% of respondents agree that they are now more aware. An information literacy skills demonstration package was prepared for regular use with faculty members, students and postgraduate students to make them competent in accessing and using information more efficiently. This would fulfil the aim of developing individuals' intellectual capabilities of independent and lifelong learning.

#### STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The Internet and the World Wide Web (WWW) are the most significant sources of information, with the broadest coverage and the fastest access. It is the most powerful tool for global communication and the exchange of information. The advantage of e-resources for the user is that the information needed can be delivered from the most appropriate source. Today, the availability of e-resources in an academic library is widespread, but their proper and maximum use is a matter for discussion. The present study aims to determine the users' attitudes and approaches towards e-resources and services in the academic library of

Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library in Tirunelveli.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the Postgraduate students' attitudes and approaches towards e-resources and services in the academic library of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.
- To analyse respondents' satisfaction level regarding e-resources and the library's benefits.

#### NULL AND ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESES

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Postgraduate students' attitudes and approaches towards e-resources and services of academic libraries do not influence their satisfaction level.

**H<sub>1</sub>** Postgraduate students' attitudes and approaches towards e-resources and services in academic libraries influence their satisfaction level.

#### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study focuses on the P.G. students' attitude and approach toward the e-resources available in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library, Tirunelveli and measures their satisfaction level with the various services provided by the library.

#### METHODOLOGY

A sample of 150 respondents using the academic Library of Annamalai Women's University was selected using a simple random sampling technique. The visitors register, and membership register provided the framework for the respondents to be covered. The researcher mailed a questionnaire to all the selected 150 respondents, and responses were received from 132 respondents only. The response rate is 88 per cent. Secondary data relating to the study was gathered through newspapers, magazines, the Internet and records maintained by the library.

## LIMITATIONS

- The researcher used the simple random sampling technique for selecting the

respondents, and the sample size was limited to one.

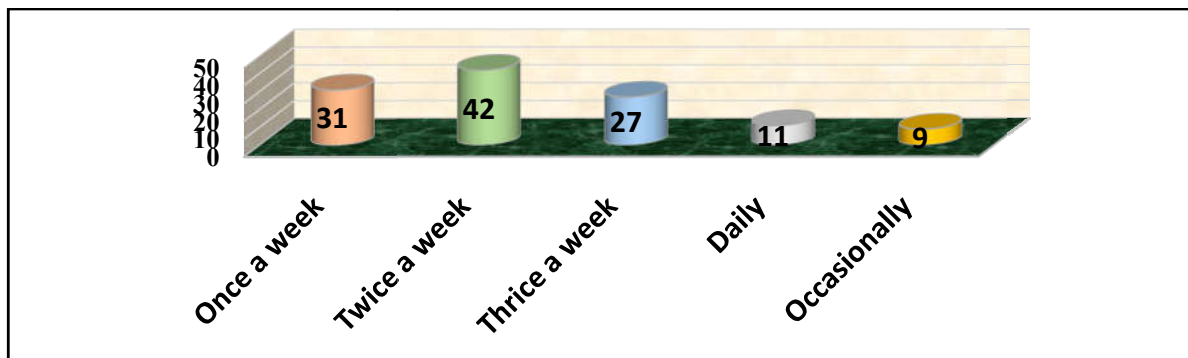
- Empirical study results depend on the responses of respondents.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

**Table 1:** Frequency of Use of Electronic Information Resources

Sl. No	Frequency of Use of Electronic Information Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Once a week	31	25.83
2	Twice a week	42	35.00
3	Thrice a week	27	22.50
4	Daily	11	9.17
5	Occasionally	9	7.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

(Source: Primary data)



**Figure 1:** Frequency of Use of Electronic Information Resources

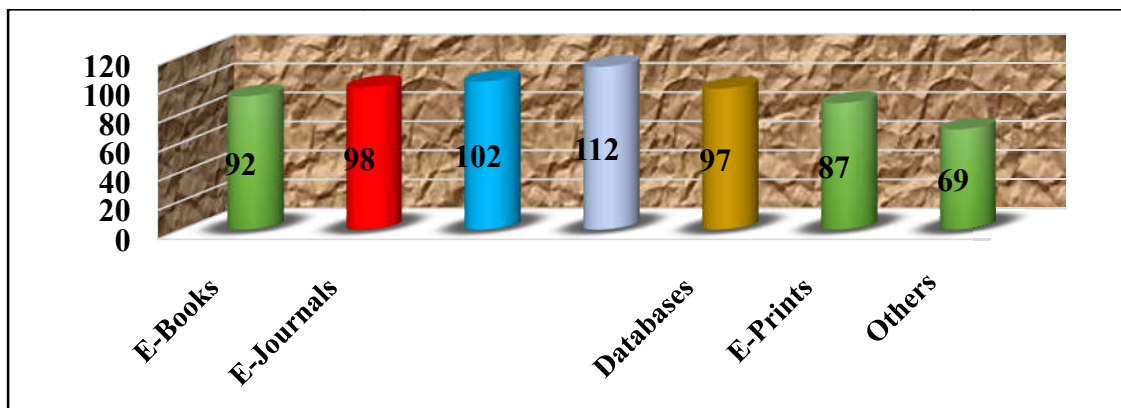
The table and Figure 1 show how often the selected respondents use electronic information. The results indicate that 35% of respondents use it twice a week, followed by 25.83% using it once

a week, 22.50% using it once or twice a week, 9.17% using it every day, and 7.50% using it rarely.

**Table 2:** Types of Electronic Information Resources

Sl. No	Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage on total
1	E-Books	92	76.67
2	E-Journals	98	81.67
3	E-Theses & Dissertation	102	85.00
4	Website Resources	112	93.33
5	Databases	97	80.83
6	E-Prints	87	72.50
7	Others	69	57.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

(Source: Primary data)



**Figure 2:** Types of Electronic Information Resources

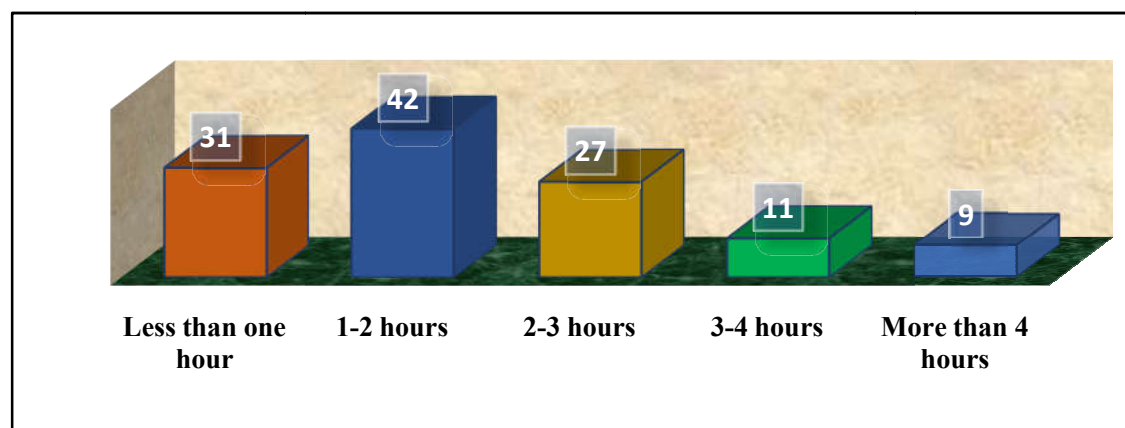
Based on the data presented in Table and Figure 2, it can be observed that most respondents use electronic resources for their research needs. Specifically, 93.33% of respondents use websites, 85% use electronic theses and dissertations, 81.67% rely on electronic prints, 80.83% use

electronic journals, and 76.67% use electronic books. Interestingly, 57.5% of the respondents consider television informational programmes, electronic newspapers, and electronic magazines as the most trustworthy sources of information.

**Table 3:** Period of using Electronic Information Resources

Sl. No	Period of using Electronic Information Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage on Total
1	Less than one hour	31	25.83
2	1-2 hours	42	35.00
3	2-3 hours	27	22.50
4	3-4 hours	11	9.17
5	More than 4 hours	9	7.50
Total		120	100

(Source: Primary data)



**Figure 3:** Period of using Electronic Information Resources

According to Table 3, 35% of the surveyed individuals utilise electronic information resources during visits that last one to two hours. 25.83% of the respondents use them during visits lasting between two to three hours, while 22.50% use them during visits that last

between one to two hours. A small percentage of 9.17% use electronic information resources during visits lasting three to four hours. Only a mere 7.5% use these resources during visits that exceed four hours.

**Table 4:** The attitude of students towards the availability of E-Resources

Sl. No	The attitude of students toward the availability of E-Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage on Total
1	All information in one place	87	72.50
2	Helpful	93	77.50
3	Accessible	104	86.67
4	Time-Saving	92	76.67
5	Updated Information	78	65.00
6	Portable	58	48.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

(Source: Primary data)

In Table 4, the survey results show how students feel about the availability of electronic resources in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library in Tirunelveli. Most 86.67% of

respondents reported that the library's e-resources are accessible. Additionally, 77.50% found the resources helpful, and 76.67% reported saving time.

**Table 5:** Satisfaction level of students towards the availability of E-Resources

Sl.No	Satisfaction level of students towards the availability of E-Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Highly Satisfied	49	40.83
2	Satisfied	22	18.33
3	No Opinion	15	12.50
4	Dissatisfied	21	17.50
5	Highly Dissatisfied	13	10.83
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5 presents the satisfaction levels of selected students from the study's sample unit. The results show that 49 respondents (40.83%) reported high satisfaction with the library's e-resources, 22 respondents (18.33%) were satisfied, and 21 respondents (17.50%) were

dissatisfied with the content. Additionally, 15 respondents (12.50%) did not respond, while only 13 (10.83%) reported being highly dissatisfied with the e-resources provided by Manonmaniam Sundaranar University library in Tirunelveli provided.

**Table 6:** Association between the profile variables of the selected Respondents' and their responses about the approaches to e-resources of the university library

<b>Tests of Between-Subjects Effects</b>					
Dependent Variable: Postgraduate students' attitudes and approaches toward E-resources					
<b>Source</b>	<b>Type III Sum of Squares</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Mean Square</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
Corrected Model	431.616 <sup>a</sup>	4	10.277	35.174	< 0.05
Intercept	226.386	1	226.386	774.865	< 0.05
Age	13.596	4	3.399	11.634	< 0.05
Religion	17.191	4	4.298	14.710	< 0.05
Social Status	61.789	4	15.447	52.872	< 0.05
Educational Qualification	6.684	4	1.671	5.720	< 0.05
Marital Status	4.761	4	1.190	4.074	< 0.05
Status of Spouse	75.285	5	15.057	51.537	< 0.05
Family type	18.885	4	4.721	16.160	< 0.05
Family members	22.499	4	5.625	19.252	< 0.05
Residential area	20.188	5	4.038	13.820	< 0.05
Error	130.596	77	.292		
Total	4528.000	120			
Corrected Total	562.212	119			
a. R Squared = .768 (Adjusted R Squared = .746)					

Table 6 reveals the two-way ANOVA between the profile variables of the selected respondents and their responses about the Postgraduate students' attitudes and approaches toward E-resources. "R" squared value 0.768, more than the threshold level of 0.60. Hence, the model is fit for further analysis and interpretation. The "F" value of all the independent profile variables is more than one except for the marital status of

the respondents. The corresponding significance values of the variables are less than 0.01 at a 99 per cent confidence level. Hence, it is concluded that there is a significant association between the profile variables of the respondents and their responses about variables under the Construct Postgraduate students' attitudes and approaches toward E-resources.

**Table 7:** ANOVA

<b>Model</b>		<b>Sum of Squares</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Mean Square</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
1	Regression	351.947	13	27.073	64.762	< 0.05
	Residual	297.640	106	.418		
	Total	649.587	119			

P-value/ Sig value usually, the researcher chooses at 95 per cent or 99 per cent confidence level. The above table recognised that the p-value is less than 0.01. Therefore, the result is significant. F-ratio signifies an improvement in the prediction of the variable by fitting the model after considering any inaccuracy present

in the model. A value is greater than 3 for the F-ratio yield competent model. In the above table, the value is 64.762, which is good. These results estimate that as the corresponding p-value is below the tolerable significance level, there is a possibility of refusing the null hypothesis in further analysis.

**Table 8:** Association between Postgraduate students' approaches toward E-resources and their satisfaction level

<b>Model Summary</b>				
<b>Model</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>R Square</b>	<b>Adjusted R Square</b>	<b>Std. Error of the Estimate</b>
1	.836 <sup>a</sup>	.693	.681	.64655

The R-value measures the connection between selected respondents' satisfaction level and postgraduate students' approaches toward E-resources. If the value exceeds 0.6, it is suitable for further analysis. In this case, the value is 0.836, which is considered good. The R<sup>2</sup> value indicates how much variation in the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variables. A value greater than 0.5 shows that

the model effectively defines the relationship. The estimated value in this case is .693. The Adjusted R-square indicates the general results and should ideally have a smaller difference from the R-square value. The value in this case is .681, which is not far from .693 and is also good. Therefore, the model summary is sufficient to proceed with the next step.

**Table 9:** Inferential Statistic

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Unstandardised co-efficient (B)</b>	<b>Std. Error of B</b>	<b>Standardised co-efficient (Beta)</b>	<b>"t" value</b>	<b>P value</b>
<b>Constant</b>	.116	.041	-	2.824	< 0.05
Electronic books	.160	.017	.144	9.450	< 0.05
Electronic Journal	.149	.021	.126	6.984	< 0.05
Online Journal	.658	.018	.682	35.747	< 0.05
Offline Journal/ Periodical	-.114	.027	-.101	-4.302	< 0.05
Electronic Database	.130	.018	.132	7.124	< 0.05
Newspaper clippings	-.081	.027	-.072	-3.040	< 0.05
Adequate number of systems	.094	.019	.079	4.967	< 0.05
Internet speed	-.133	.027	-.155	-4.993	< 0.05
Images/Photographs	.048	.006	.044	7.419	< 0.05
Books/Book chapters	.088	.007	.085	11.778	< 0.05
Approaches of the library staff	.110	.012	.094	8.907	< 0.05

Table 9 discloses how the independent variable, Postgraduate students' approaches toward E-resources," influences the dependent variable, "satisfaction level of the respondents" selected for the study. All eleven variables affect the dependent variable, "satisfaction level of respondents". Since the "t" value of all the eleven independent variables is more than the critical value of 1.96, the corresponding "p" value is less than 0.01 at the 99 per cent level of confidence. Hence, all the eleven variables in the construct

influence the satisfaction level of the respondents at a 99 per cent level of confidence.

## FINDINGS

- The results indicate that 35% of respondents use it twice a week, followed by 25.83% using it once a week, 22.50% using it once or twice a week, 9.17% using it every day, and 7.50% using it rarely.
- It can be observed that most respondents use electronic resources for their research



needs. Specifically, 93.33% of respondents use websites, 85% use electronic theses and dissertations, 81.67% rely on electronic prints, 80.83% use electronic journals, and 76.67% use electronic books. Interestingly, 57.5% of the respondents consider television informational programmes, electronic newspapers, and electronic magazines as the most trustworthy sources of information.

- The study revealed that 35% of the surveyed individuals utilise electronic information resources during visits that last one to two hours. 25.83% of the respondents use them during visits lasting between two to three hours, while 22.50% use them during visits that last between one to two hours. A small percentage of 9.17% use electronic information resources during visits lasting three to four hours. Only a mere 7.5% use these resources during visits that exceed four hours.
- Most 86.67% of respondents reported that the library's e-resources are accessible. Additionally, 77.50% found the resources helpful, and 76.67% reported saving time.
- The results show that 49 respondents (40.83%) reported high satisfaction with the library's e-resources, 22 respondents (18.33%) were satisfied, and 21 respondents (17.50%) were dissatisfied with the content. Additionally, 15 respondents (12.50%) did not respond, while only 13 (10.83%) reported being highly dissatisfied with the e-resources provided by Manonmaniam Sundaranar University library in Tirunelveli provided.
- The two-way ANOVA between the profile variables of the selected respondents and their responses about the Postgraduate students' attitudes and approaches toward E-resources. "R" squared value 0.768, more than the threshold level of 0.60. Hence, the model is fit for further analysis and interpretation.
- In this case, the value is 0.836, considered good. The R<sup>2</sup> value indicates how much variation in the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variables. A value greater than 0.5 shows that the model effectively defines the relationship.

- F-ratio signifies an improvement in the prediction of the variable by fitting the model after considering any inaccuracy present in the model. A value is greater than 3 for the F-ratio yield competent model. In the above table, the value is 64.762, which is good. These results estimate that as the corresponding p-value is below the tolerable significance level, there is a possibility of refusing the null hypothesis in further analysis.
- The independent variable Postgraduate students' approaches toward E-resources," influences the dependent variable, "satisfaction level of the respondents" selected for the study. All eleven variables affect the dependent variable, "satisfaction level of respondents" " since the "t" value of all the eleven independent variables is more than the critical value of 1.96, the corresponding "p" value is less than 0.01 at the 99 per cent level of confidence.

## SUGGESTIONS

- The Manonmaniam Sundaranar University library should enhance the e-resources available in the university library.
- Internet speed in the university library must be improved to access the resources easily.
- The library staff must guide P.G. students to use the e-resources.
- The library must increase the number of computers to provide better services to the student community.

## CONCLUSION

The user community in an academic library system constitutes the faculty and students. From the user's viewpoint, he needs various information whether he is a student. An attitude is a mental state of readiness exerting a directive or dynamic influence upon an individual's response to all objects and situations it relates to. Electronic resources are some of the most important aspects of a digital library. In information technology, the Internet can efficiently retrieve and meet information needs. E-resources works are encoded and made accessible through a computer online or in physical format. Significantly, the Internet has

profoundly changed how newspapers, magazines, and periodicals have been published for years, and all kinds of texts are now available in digitised form; digital media and networks have created new products such as E-books, E-journals, databases for the network security. E-resource is an electronic information resource accessed online, on or off campus. Material (data and program(s)) encoded for manipulation by a computerised device. This material may require a peripheral directly connected to an automated device (e.g. CD-ROM drive) or a computer network (e.g. Internet).

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