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**Exploring New Trends, Technologies, Practices,**  
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## Awareness and Usage of Electronic Resources among Post-Graduate Students of St. John's College, Palayamkottai : A Study

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### Abstract

*Electronic resources are a very big tool for transferring information from one to another. This paper discusses the awareness and usage of e-resources among post-graduate students of St. John's College, Palayamkottai. This study finds that 69 percentages of the respondents are aware of e-resources at moderate level. 70.90 percentages of female respondents used the e-resources at moderate level, followed by 64.7 percentages of male respondents at moderate level. 72.9 percentages of rural area respondents used the e-resources. Finally, there is no significant difference between the usage of e-resources among the male and female students.*

**Keywords:** PG Students, E-Books, E-Journals and Electronic Resources

### Introduction

Libraries are given electronic access to broad diversity of resources, including indexes, full text articles, complete journals and internet/web resources. The availability of a multitude of electronic information resources has made a great challenge to the libraries to improve the users (Al-Baridi & Ahmed, 2000). In the technology world, more information's gathering and sharing from one to another through online cum social networking sites like consortia, educational portals, Face-book, Twitter, Whatsapp etc. This paper analyzes awareness and usage of electronic information resources among the post graduate students at St. John's College, Palayamkottai.

### Institute Profile

St. John's College was established in 1878. It now offers 9 aided UG Courses, 5 aided PG Courses and also research programmes in various departments. The Library was established in 1962. The present Accession Register started with the same year. The distinctive feature of the library is that it is considered a department of academic support services. The emphasis of the library is on the increase of its holdings. The central library is housed in a ground floor at the entrance of the college and accommodates more than sixty thousand books and subscribes to 38 journals. With the grants from the UGC and annual budgetary provisions of the college the library has built up a huge collection representing various disciplines for all levels of its users. The library also receives reading materials as gifts from individuals and institutions including international missions. It offers special services like reprographic and bibliographic services and Internet browsing services. It is equipped with Internet facilities and is also preparing for library automation. The Library can accommodate more than 180 students at a time.

### Review of Literature

Shahapurmath (2015) pointed out the main objective of this paper to know the usage of e-resources and services by the students of physics, chemistry and mathematics from Karnataka College to find out impediments encountered by the users while accessing and using the e-resources. This study finds out, physics, chemistry and mathematics students are different purpose they are using e-resources. The researchers found majority of that 90.62% from physics, 77.27% from chemistry and 68.91% from mathematics students are agreed that they used the electronic resources for study purpose and many

*Awareness and Usage of Electronic Resources among PG Students: St. John's College, Palayamkottai*

they were reading e-news papers. It will show that students are using e-books and e-journals only for their study purpose.

**Scope of the Study**

This study indicates that an “A Study on Awareness and Usage of Electronic Resources among Post-Graduate Students with Special Reference to St. John’s College, Palayamkottai .”

**Objectives of the study**

- To find out the level of awareness about e-resources.
- To find out the purpose of using the e-resources.
- How to find out the latest Information.
- Level of using the e-news paper.
- To find out most accessible e-resources
- To find out the level of usage of e-resources for preparing for the competitive examinations.

**Delimitations:**

Collection of the data is only from post-graduate students studying at St. John’s College, Palayamkottai.

**Data Collection:**

This research is done by the survey method and for survey a questionnaire is used as a tool. The respondents are from St. John’s College post-graduate students including male and female respondents. This research questionnaire consists of six questions regarding the awareness and usage of electronic resources during the study. The researchers distributed 120 sets of questionnaire to students of St. John’s College, Palayamkottai. Only 113 filled questionnaires have been received from students of St. John’s College, Palayamkottai.

**Data Analysis**

The responses of the 113 students were taken up for analysis and interpretation.

**Analysis of the Study:**

**Table 1.Distribution of Gender wise**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Male	34	30.10
	Female	79	69.90
	Total	113	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 show that 69.90 percentage of the female respondents followed by 30.1 0percentages of the female respondents participated in this study.

**Table 2 .Distribution of Area wise**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Urban	65	57.50
	Rural	48	42.50
	Total	113	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 shows that 57.50 percentage of the rural area respondents followed by 42.50 percentages of the urban respondents participated in this study.

**Table 3. Level of Awareness of the E-resources**

Level of Awareness of the E-resources		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Low	16	14.20
	Moderate	78	69.00
	High	19	16.80

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows that 16.80 percentage of the respondents are aware of the e-resources at high level, followed by 69 percentage at moderate level and 14.2 percentage at low level.

**Table 4. Level of Awareness of the E-resources Gender wise**

Level of Awareness of the E-resources			Variable (Binned)		
Gender		Count	Low	Moderate	High
		Male	Count	4	22
		% within Gender	11.8%	64.7%	23.5%
Female		Count	12	56	11
		% within Gender	15.2%	70.9%	13.9%

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 shows that 23.5 percentage of the male respondents used the e-resources at high level, followed by 64.7 percentage at moderate level and 11.8 percentage at low level. 13.9 percentage of the female respondents used the e-resources at high level, followed by 70.9 percentage at moderate level and 15.2 percentages at low level.

**Table 5. Level of Awareness of the E-resources Area wise**

Level of Awareness of the E-resources			Variable (Binned)		
Residence		Count	Low	Moderate	High
		Urban	Count	8	43
		% within Residence	12.3%	66.2%	21.5%
Rural		Count	8	35	5
		% within Residence	16.7%	72.9%	10.4%

Source: Primary Data

Table 5 shows that 21.5 percentage of the urban area respondents used the electronic resources in the library at high level, followed by 66.40 percentage at moderate level and 12.3 percentages at low level. 10.40 percentage of the urban area respondents used the e-resources at high level, followed by 72.90 percentage at moderate and 16.7 percentage at low level.

**Table 6. Gender wise usage of electronic resources for "t" test**

t-test for Gender						
	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	p-value
Variable	Male	34	17.32	2.705	0.864	0.391
	Female	79	16.87	2.102		

Source: Primary Data

Table 6 shows that there was no significant difference between the male and female respondents regarding the usage of electronic resources, because p value is greater than 0.05.

Table 7. Area wise usage of electronic resources for “t” test

t-test for Residence						
	Residence	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	p-value
Variable	Urban	65	17.25	2.424	1.310	0.193
	Rural	48	16.69	2.095		

Source: Primary Data

Table 7 shows that there was no significant difference between the rural and urban respondents regarding the usage of electronic resources, because p value is greater than 0.05.

#### Major Findings of the Study:

- Majority of the respondents are 69.90 percentage of the female respondents participated in this study.
- 69 percentage of the respondents have awareness about the e-resources at moderate level.
- 70.90 percentage female respondents used the e-resources at moderate level
- 72.90 percentage of the urban area respondents used the e-resources at moderate level.
- There was no significant difference between the male and female respondents regarding the usage of electronic resources and
- There was no significant difference between the rural and urban respondents regarding the usage of electronic resources

#### Conclusion

The Post-graduate students were well aware of electronic versions including the e-newspaper. Students were using the electronic resources for preparing the subject material, assignment, and project works. Students also sharing the information through social networking sites like facebook, whatsapp, and twitter etc. The presents study also showed the female students were using e-resources more than their counterpart male students. This was a very good indicator showing women’s empowerment in modern technologies for academic purposes. The residence students both male and female where making the use of e-resources. The rural students where using e-resources more than their urban counterpart. The reason may be that most of the rural students were poor than the urban students. So this may be they hurdle for rural students to access e-resources at their own expenses.

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