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Awareness on E-Learning Resources among Prospective Engineers: A Special Reference to Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology, Coimbatore : A Study

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ABSTRACT : *This study focus about the awareness and usage of E-Learning resources by under graduate engineering students of Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology, Coimbatore. Questionnaire method was followed in the study. 96 samples were received from under graduate engineering students. The findings of the study are 52% of the respondents know about e-learning resources, 50% of the respondents agree with using the e-learning resources for studies, project work and research work, 42.71% of the respondents agree with shopping through electronic applications like online shopping, and 40.63% of the respondents agree with using the paper free culture for creating green environment in the future. Mostly the engineering students aware about the e-learning resources and also know all the applications through internet.*

Keywords: E-Learning, E-Resources, Under Graduate Engineering Students

INTRODUCTION

E-Learning Resources means all the information's in the internet and the desktop computer like electronic books, electronic journals, electronic reports, electronic dissertations, databases, and Institutional repositories in online, digital library portals. Number of subject oriented e-packages for engineering students like IEEE online, ASME, ASCE, Elsevier, EBSCO Host, and UGC-N-List Consortium online and also corporate companies and open source portals also provide the electronic resources in free and subscription mode. The under graduate engineering student able to create the skills in use of e-books, e-journals, e-database, Institutional repositories, Important web portals, e-mail, e-publishing and collaborative skills for creating new knowledge through using e-learning resources. So that this study has been undertaken awareness and usage of E-Learning resources by under graduate engineering students of Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology, Coimbatore

INSTITUTE PROFILE

Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology was established in the year 2002 by SNR Trust. Total area is 49.99 acres and the buildup area is 65117 sqm. College offers 6 UG Programmes and 5 PG Programmes. Around 2100 students, 170 Teaching staff and 67 supporting staff are in the campus.Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology has Three Libraries like Main Library, MBA Library and Research Resource Centre with the State of Art facilities to provide information service and access to Books and Journals both hard and soft copy. The carpet area of the Library is 695 sqm, reading space is 255 sqm and the number of seats in reading space is 300. The average number of users per day is 240.The library was using the Linsysk software. Online OPAC facility is available in the library with title, author, and keyword and subject search option. Our library follows Dewey Decimal Classification. Around 39000 books in the library, 1426 project reports and 1700 back volumes of bounded journals.113 Journals and 40 Magazines are subscribed in the library. The library also subscribing the e-learning resources packages like IEEE, ASME., ASCE, ELSEVIER, SPRINGER, McGraw HILL, EBSCO, J-GATE - Online Journal publications.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Thanuskodi (2011) studied that the present study is an attempt to examine the usage of electronic resources at Dr.TPM Library, Madurai Kamaraj University. This study also find out the problems and constraints faced by the users in accessing the e-resources with some purposeful suggestions for their development. The study confirmed that respondents were aware of the e-resources and various types of e-resources, e-databases and e-journals. The use of electronic information sources for study and research purposes must be encouraged and proper training should be organized from time to time. The study recommended the improvement in the access facilities with high internet speed and subscription to more e-resources at Dr.TPM Library, Madurai Kamaraj University. Sahu (2009) described about this paper as it includes the use of pattern of electronic resources and services and the type of problems faced by the users. The aims and objectives are as follows: (1) To ascertain the availability of electronic information services on the library, (2) To identify the use of internet and web resources by the users, (3) To know about the impact of electronic information resources and services with the traditional or print resources, (4) To know about the constraints encountered by accessing electronic information from CD-Rom, databases and web in the library. Some suggestions given by the respondents : (1) To provide more number of CD-Rom services, (2) To provide e-journals and e-books, (3) To provide more number of e-databases, (4) To provide mailing list and subject gateways. So this paper to identify the all the required e-information's, resources, librarians have to use electronic resources to provide information services to

Principal

patron. Dhanavandan (2009) presented a paper about this study is to identify the access and usage of CD – Rom's and electronic journals among the engineering graduates in cuddalore district. Due to their compatibility, capability, transportability and above all economy and it also variety of applications and products CD Rom's are found to be more useful. The electronic journals are a revolutionizing working process in libraries and archives. It is now possible to retrieve the information independently of time zone and geographical location and to obtain most, up to date information because the printing and editing process dare either no longer necessary (or) have been considerably reduced.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know about e-learning resources
- To find about e-learning resources for Engineering studies
- To find e-learning resources helps to work independently
- To find e-learning resources helps to develop divergent thinking
- To find e-learning resources helps to refer books of different experts about the same topic
- To find usage of e-books for studies, Project work and Research work process
- To know about e-books helps to customize the viewing experience like font size and style
- To find blog accounts information can be accessed at anytime and anywhere
- To find the respondents like to purchase things through e-Shopping-
- To find the respondents agree to promote the paper-free community in teaching-learning process for creating green environment

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The samples selected for the study has its limitation, which is follows,

- The data is collected form only undergraduate students
- The data is collected from Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology only.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire-based survey was utilized. It consisted of 10 questions to determine the awareness of e-learning, usage of e-learning for Engineering Study process, find use of e-books for Studies, Project work and Research Work process, and find e-learning helps to develop divergent thinking from the undergraduate engineering college students. A total of 100 questionnaires were distributed and 96 completed questionnaires were collected and data analyzed by percentage analysis.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Five point scale tool of sample collection was followed in the paper. The sample consists of 96 under graduate engineering students at Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology; Coimbatore. The following statistical methods were used for analysis and interpretation in the study applying in the study Percentage Analysis and t-test.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Table 1 (see last page and refer the table) show that 10 statements. The following results from the respective statements.

Statement 1: 23.96 % of the respondents are strongly agree to know about e- learning resources, followed by 50% are agree , 20.83% are undecided, 4.02% are disagree and 1.02% are strongly disagree.

Statement 2: 15.63 % of the respondents are strongly agree to know about e- learning resources in engineering studies, followed by 52% are agree , 19.79% are undecided, 9.37% are disagree and 3.12% are strongly disagree.

Statement 3: 28.16 % of the respondents are strongly agree to e- learning resources helps to work independently, followed by 33.33% are agree , 28.16 are undecided, 7.29 are disagree and 3.12% are strongly disagree.

Statement 4: 26.04 % of the respondents are strongly agree to e-learning resources helps me to develop divergent thinking, followed by 47.92% are agree , 14.58 are undecided, 8.33 are disagree and 3.12% are strongly disagree.

Statement 5: 25 % of the respondents are strongly agree to e-learning resources helps me to refer books of different experts about the same topic, followed by 46.88% are agree , 16.67% are undecided, 10.42% are disagree and 1.02% are strongly disagree.

Statement 6: 27.08 % of the respondents are strongly agree to using the e-books for studies, project work and research work, followed by 50% are agree , 13.54% are undecided,5.20% are disagree and 4.16% are strongly disagree.

Statement 7: 18.75 % of the respondents are strongly agree to e-books helps to customize the viewing experience like font size and style, followed by 42.70% are agree , 26.04% are undecided, 10.42% are disagree and 2.02% are strongly disagree.

Statement 8: 18.75 % of the respondents are strongly agree to blog accounts information can be accessed at anytime and anywhere, followed by 44.79% are agree , 23.96% are undecided,9.37% are disagree and 3.12% are strongly disagree.

Statement 9: 25% of the respondents are strongly agree to purchase through e- shopping helps to work independently, followed by 42.71% are agree , 18.75% are undecided, 10.42% are disagree and 3.12% are strongly disagree.

Statement 10: 38.54% of the respondents are strongly agree to promote the use of paper free culture for creating green environment, followed by 40.63% are agree , 11.46% are undecided, 6.25% are disagree and 3.12% are strongly disagree.

SUGGESTIONS

1. E-learning resources can provide practical knowledge to the students
2. E-learning resources enhances creativity among students
3. It is helpful in enhancing the critical thinking for studies and research work
4. It will facilitate the physical and intellectual environment that encourages a spirit of discovery
5. It develops the reflective thinking among students along with memory and understanding level.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that above 25% of the students are not using the e-learning resources in the college library and outside from the college. But All India Council for Technical Education promotes number of e-learning resources packages compulsory to subscribed by the colleges and get the approval from the AICTE. The Affiliating Universities and Colleges decided to provide weekly two hours for using e-learning resources in the library to the 3rd and final year undergraduate engineering students.

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