Chapter 6
Online Database Use by Science Research Scholars of Alagappa University, Karaikudi:
A Study

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ABSTRACT

The main aim of this chapter is to create awareness among the researchers about online database resources and to promote effective access to electronic products. A well-equipped and well managed library is the foundation of modern education structure. It is said that education without library services is like a body without soul, a vehicle without and engine, and building with bricks but no cement. The library is the chief instrument for accumulating and using our intellectual heritage. This research work will bring out tremendous changes in the working style of the libraries. University library is a way of making educational and research data and information available to faculty, researchers, students, and others at the institutions and worldwide. A well-structured questionnaire was employed to test the variables using statistical tools.

INTRODUCTION

Information has become a necessity for everyone and everyone and everybody needs information for some purpose or the other. Education and research activities require more and more information. Students need it for pursuing academic studies. A database is a computerized collection of logically related set of data or records about something that are stored, organized or structured in the computer. It is the collection of data or information stored in a form that may be accessed by more than one user in a way

that makes it easy to retrieve needed information. The study endeavors to find out the level of awareness and use of online databases by the science researchers in Alagappa University Karaikudi.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Alagappa University has been the creation of large hearted philanthropist and educationist Dr.RM.Alagappa Chettiar. It was brought into existence by a Special Act of the Government of Tamil Nadu in May 1985. The University is accredited with A+ Grade with CGPA of 3.64 in the third cycle by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). It is graded as Category-1 by MHRD and ranked 28th by NIRF 2019. It has bagged 104th place in QS BRICS ranking. The University has 44 Departments, 9 Centres and 2 Constituent Colleges on its campus. 46 Affiliated Colleges are located in the districts of Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram. The University offers education through Regular, Distance and Online modes. The University is having International Collaborations with institutions from China, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, U.S.A, U.K, Germany, Finland and South Korea. Innovative programmes are designed and offered at the University. 41 International exchange programmes attract the attention of the teachers and students from abroad. The University's motto is "Excellence in Action" and the University keeps before it the vision of excellence in all spheres of its action.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mauti, Chege, and Kiplag (2018) in their study entitled "Evaluating Access and Use of Information Resources by Postgraduate Students at the Adventist University of Africa Library in Kenya", conducted a sample study on 142 postgraduate students out of 473. Stratified and purposive sampling techniques were used. From the research findings, the majority of the respondents indicated that books form the highest percentage of resources found in the library as represented by 48.6%, Books were rated highest with a mean of 4.34, an indication that respondents considered them to be very good, It was established that 48.6% of the postgraduate students access the information resources through the information literacy skills.57.8% of the respondents do not have adequate information technology skills. The study recommended more print-based journals to be subscribed to cover all the programs and suggested the University to ensure that all students are computer literate in order to gain skills that enable them to retrieve information using Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Papanna and Ravvivenkat (2017) in their study entitled "Information Sources and Services in First Grade College Libraries of Chitradurga District: A Survey", did a survey empowered with a structured questionnaire and distributed to college librarians. The study indicates that out of (27.31%) college libraries 23 have separate independent budget, it is suggested that the college authorities must focus on building the infrastructure in libraries, provide professional manpower to libraries, set in motion the concept of introducing library automation in libraries, framing a policy for collection building and rules for providing services to library users in an effective and efficient manner.

Olajide and Adio (2017) in their study entitled "Effective utilisation of university library resources by undergraduate students: A case study of Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria". The research design used for this study is the descriptive research design of the survey type and the instrument used was a structured questionnaire administered to students in the university. The sample study is 400 targeted

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