

**INFORMATION RETRIEVAL AND USE OF INFORMATION TOOLS BY THE
STUDENTS OF PDA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING LIBRARY, KALABURAGI
(KARNATAKA STATE): A CASE STUDY.**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study was to examine the information retrieval and use information Retrieval Tools (IRTs) by the students of PDA College of Engineering Library, Kalaburagi. This study is based on a well structured questionnaire was administered to gather information about the use of awareness of e-Resources, frequency of use, the type of e-resources preferred by students, overall rating of e-resources collection of library, Barriers in using computer/ Internet as Information Retrieval tools. Altogether 80 questionnaires were distributed among the students. Of all distributed questionnaires, 66 questionnaires received back filled by the respondents.

KEY WORDS: *Information Retrieval, e-resources, Internet, Search engine*

INTRODUCTION

With the advent of Information and communication Technology (ICT), the information came to being processed on the computers. The advantage of the computer is that huge amount of information can be stored in small space. These days, the publishing industry has shifted to electronic processing of all the materials. Hence, all the information being created today is available in electronic format. Even then, materials created earlier are being digitized. Project Gutenberg is one such example where the old books whose copyrights have lapsed have been digitized for the benefit of mankind. Publishers are now created content in electronic format and have also made databases of the information available with them. With loads of information and various types of materials available, it becomes a challenging task to retrieve the same.

Various tools have been developed by the publishers for information retrieval. Databases in the earlier days were supplied on Floppy Disks and CD ROMS. Now, with internet connection being available in most of the places, publishers have chosen to place their databases on the World Wide Web (www) through specific websites. These websites have now evolved into specialized databases. Each database has special features, although all databases use the overall search function in different ways.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are

- ❖ The level of awareness and use of e- resources and online databases for information

retrieval

- ❖ The purpose they make use of information retrieval tools
- ❖ To know the favorite search engine among the respondents
- ❖ Identify the barriers encountered by the students while using information retrieval tools

METHODOLOGY

This study of the research used questionnaire-based survey method in order to achieve the above objectives. For this purpose a well structured questionnaire was designed to collect the data from the students of PDA College of Engineering Library, Kalaburagi. 80 questionnaires were distributed in the students of PDA College of Engineering Library, Kalaburagi, out of which 66 duly filled in questionnaires were received back. The collected data were classified, analyzed and tabulated by using statistical methods. This study covers the students in various departments of PDA College of Engineering.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table1. Gender wise distribution of respondents

Sl. No	Gender	No of Respondents	Percentage %
1.	Male	44	66.66
2.	Female	22	33.34
	Total	66	100

From Table 1 it was shown that 44 (66.66%) of respondents were male while 22 (33.34%) were females.

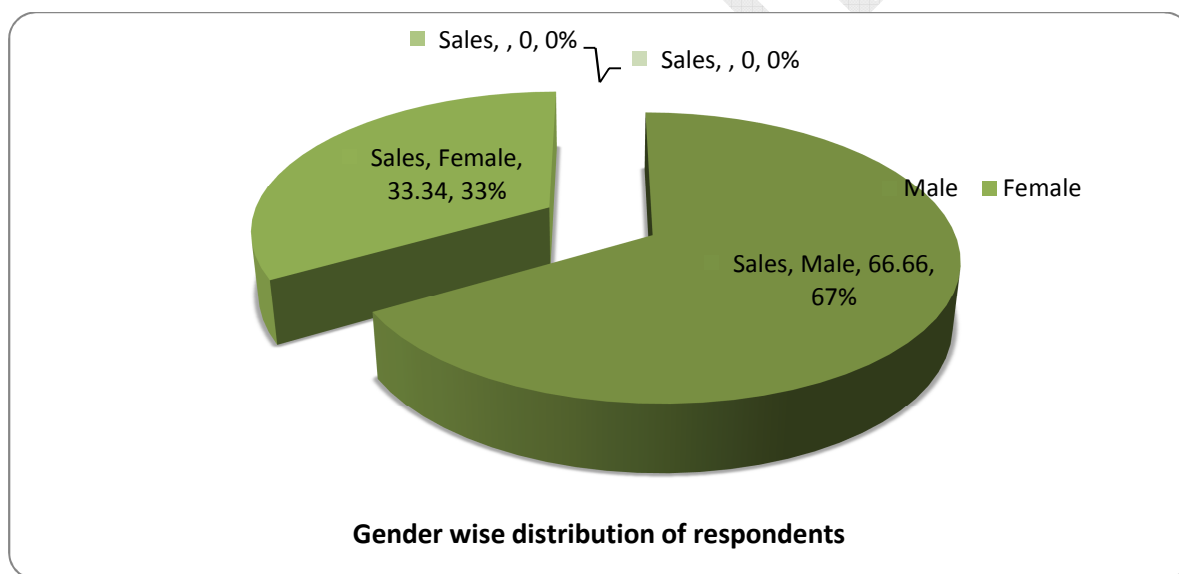


Table2. Frequency of library visit

Sl. No	Frequency	No of Respondents	Percentage %
1.	Daily	32	48.48
2.	Once in two days	18	27.28
3.	Twice in week	11	16.66
	rarely	05	07.58
	Total	66	100

The above Table indicates that 32 (48.48%) of respondents use e-resources daily , 18 (27.28%) of respondents use e-resources once in two days, 11 (16.66%) of respondents use e-resources twice in week and only 05(07.58%) of respondents use e-resources rare.

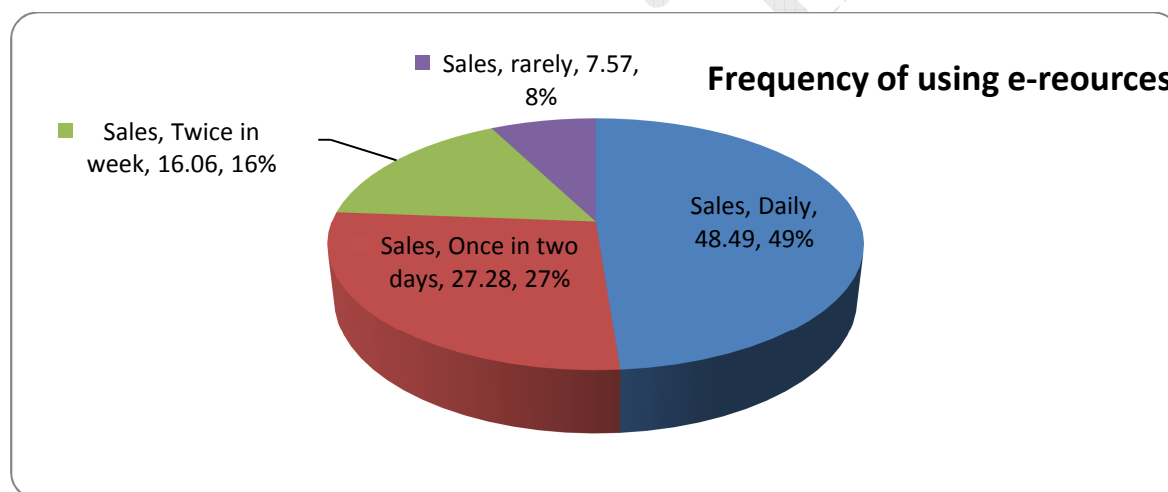


Table3. Purpose of Retrieving Information

Sl. No	Purpose	No of Respondents	Percentage %
1.	To gain current information	59	89.39
2.	To update knowledge	48	72.72
3.	Referring course materials	51	77.27
4.	Project and others	42	63.63
5.	For writing article	21	31.81

From the Table it is revealed that majority of users would like to get the information to gain current information 59 (89.39%), to update knowledge 48 (72.72%), referring course materials 51 (77.27%) , project and others 42 (63.63%), and for writing article 21 (31.81%).

Table5. Use of Search engines

Sl. No	Search engines	No of Respondents	Percentage %
1.	Google	66	100
2.	Yahoo	52	78.78
3.	Others	42	63.63

As shown in table majority of respondents opined that they use Google 66 (100%) as their main search engine. The respondents also would like to use Yahoo 52 (78.78%) and others 42 (63.63%).

Table6. Level of Awareness and Use of E-Resources

Sl. No	Awareness level	No of Respondents	Percentage %
1.	Aware	20	30.30
2.	Somewhat aware	36	54.55
3.	Unaware	10	15.15
	Total	66	100

Table 6 shows that 63 (54.55%) felt that they considered themselves as somewhat aware of e-resources in the library, 10 (15.15%) of users are not familiar with the e-resources available in the library.

Table7. Preferred type of e-resources used for Information Retrieval

Sl. No	Preferred type	No of Respondents	Percentage %
1.	E-Books	61	92.42
2.	E-Journals	54	81.81
3.	E-Newspapers	51	77.27
4.	others	41	62.12

The table 7 reveals that highest percentage of 61 (92.42%) respondents prefers e-books and e-journals 54 (81.81%), e- newspapers 51 (77.27%), and 41 (62.12%) respondents prefers others.

Table8. Overall rating of E-resources collection of library

Sl. No	Rating	No of Respondents	Percentage %
1.	Excellent	12	18.18
2.	Very good	08	12.12
3.	Good	26	39.40
4.	Average	10	15.15
5.	Poor	10	15.15
	Total	66	100

From the table 8 it is found that, maximum number of respondents have the opinion that the e- books resources are good 26 (39.40%).

Table9. Barriers in using computer/ Internet as Information Retrieval tools

Sl. No	Barriers	No of Respondents	Percentage %
1.	Lack of computer	06	09.09
2.	Slow internet	20	30.30
3.	Long time to download information	10	15.15
4.	Inadequate time	22	33.34
5.	Difficulty in locating relevant information	08	12.12
	Total	66	100

Table 9 it is observed that inadequate time 22 (33.34%) is the main barriers in retrieving the information since the students are busy with their lab work and class work.

CONCLUSION

Now –a-day’s rapid development in information and communication technology has emerged as most powerful medium for storage and retrieval of information. Information has been embedded in a variety of forms of e- resources. In order to retrieve relevant information, users have to make use of electronic resources available on the internet. The purpose of this study was to investigate the *information retrieval and use information Retrieval Tools (IRTS)* by the students of PDA College of Engineering Library, Kalaburagi. The academic libraries have to develop a collection of e- resources along with print documents to fulfill the requirements of the user community.

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