

## USAGE OF THE INTERNET BY THE COMMERCE AND SCIENCE STUDENTS IN THE SELECTED ARTS & SCIENCE COLLEGES IN MADURAI - A STUDY

*Maheswari .S<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Aravind .S<sup>2</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science,  
Madurai Kamaraj University,  
Madurai and Librarian, Mangayarkarasi College of Arts and Science for Women,  
Madurai, India*

*Email Id: s.maheswari21@yahoo.com*

*<sup>2</sup>Librarian and Head, Department of Library and Information Science,  
G.T.N. Arts College, Dindigul – 624005, Tamilnadu, India*

*Email Id: aragtn2601@yahoo.com*

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### **Abstract**

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#### **Corresponding Author's E-mail:**

s.maheswari21@yahoo.com aragtn2601@yahoo.com

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The Study critically investigates the use of electronic resources by the undergraduate Commerce and Science students in the selected Arts and Science Colleges in Madurai. Questionnaire method was used to collect the data from the selected respondents. The result indicates that there is no significant difference between usage of Electronic resources among Commerce and Science Students. Both of the students mainly used the E-Books, E-Journals, E- Catalogues and E-Dictionaries for their academic work, writing article and preparing for Competitive Examinations.

**Keywords:** Electronic Resources, Commerce, Science, Arts & Science Colleges.



## I. INTRODUCTION

The Internet presents a challenge for students in providing Information services. In Internet many resources that can be harnessed by for scholarly work, use of Internet changing research, teaching and learning. Users have much option to collect required information from various information resources available in the libraries and Internet. The Internet plays a pivotal role in information and communication needs of academic institutions. At present, Electronic resources are one of the main information resources used by younger generation. Academic libraries are more interested to develop Electronic resource collections in the digital era. Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India has also taken many steps to provide Electronic resources to the academic community. NList, E-PG Pathsala, Swayam, National Digital Library of India etc. are some of the digital initiatives taken by Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India. In this situation, every library professional should interest to know the usage level of Electronic resources by its users. The survey method is one of the easiest and the economical method to assess the needs of the users of the library. Hence researcher adopts the survey method for finding the Commerce and Science students usage level of Electronic resources in selected Arts and Science Colleges in Madurai.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To know the variation in the use of the web browser and search engine among Commerce and Science students.
- To find out the various types of E-resources used by the Commerce and Science students.
- To investigate the effective used online databases among Commerce and Science students.
- To find out the problems faced at the time of using Electronic resources by the Commerce and Science students.

## III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Rezaei Sharifabadi (2004) examines the role of the University libraries and librarians in the digital age and concludes that "as technology continues to transform the classroom and campus environment, librarians must be trained to deal with new problems and questions".

Sanjay Kumar (2019) conducted a study on "Awareness and Use Pattern of E-Journals in 'the Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak". The main purpose of the present study is to find out the usage level of E-Journals available in the Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak by its users. The result shows that majority of the users aware of availability of the E-Journal in the Library and they used daily. The Usage level of users is increasing day by day.

The users can access the E-Resources in the Library and also from outside by various devices like Mobile/Smart Phone, Laptops, Desktops etc.

## IV. METHODOLOGY

To know the usage level of the Electronic resources by the Commerce and Science students, the researcher conducted the survey method and prepares a questionnaire for collecting data from the selected students. Two hundred and sixty questionnaires were distributed to Commerce and Science students studying in the respondents on the basis of the convent sampling method. Out of the two hundred and sixty questionnaires distributed, Each 120 filled questionnaires were received from the Commerce and Science students respectively. The response rate is 92.31%. After careful scrutiny of the filled questionnaires, required data are collected and tabulated with the help of MS Excel.

### Analysis and Interpretations

The result of the study are presented in the following tables with proper explanation.

**TABLE 1**  
**SUBJECT-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

S.No.	Subject	Numbers	Percentage
1	Commerce	120	50.00
2	Science	120	50.00
	Total	240	100.00

It is clear from the Table 1 that equal numbers of the respondents were selected from Commerce and Science subjects. Equal representation was given to the both subject students.

**TABLE 2**  
**USE OF WEB BROWSERS**

S.No.	Web Browsers	Commerce (N=120)	Percentage	Science (N=120)	Percentage
1	Google Chrome	90	75.00	84	70.00
2	Mozilla Firefox	73	60.83	72	60.00
3	Internet Explorer	45	37.50	30	25.00
4	Other Browsers	35	29.17	50	41.67
5	Opera	30	25.00	24	20.00

It is clear from the Table 2 that Google Chrome and Mozilla Fire web browsers were used by the majority of Commerce and Science students. 37.50 percent of Commerce and 25 percent of Science students used the Internet Explorer. 41.67 percent of Science students and 29.17 percent of Commerce students used other browsers. Opera web browser was used by twenty five and twenty percent of Commerce and Science students respectively.

**TABLE 3**  
**USE OF SEARCH ENGINES**

S.No.	Search Engines	Commerce (N=120)	Percentage	Science (N=120)	Percentage
1	Google	110	91.67	105	87.50
2	Yahoo	64	53.33	75	62.50
3	Bing	52	43.33	34	28.33
4	Rediff	45	37.50	30	25.00
5	Other Search Engines	27	22.50	48	40.00

It is clear from the Table 3 that majority of the respondents from Commerce and Science subject have used Google and Yahoo search engines. Bing search engine was used by 43.33 percent of Commerce and 28.33 percent of Science students. On the other hand, Rediff search engine was used by 37.50 percent of Commerce and 25 percent of Science students. 40 percent of the Science and 22.50 percent of Commerce students used the other search engines.

**TABLE 4**  
**USE OF DIFFERENT TYPE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

S.No.	Type of E-Resources	Commerce (N=120)	Percentage	Science (N=120)	Percentage
1	E-Books	85	70.83	96	80.00
2	E-Journal	90	75.00	91	75.83
3	E-Catalogues	80	66.67	74	61.67
4	E-Dictionaries	73	60.83	85	70.83
5	E-News Papers	52	43.33	70	58.33
6	E-Magazines	55	45.83	68	56.67
7	E-Thesis	48	40.00	61	50.83

It is clear from the Table 4 that the majority of the Commerce and Science students used the E-Books (70.83% and 80%); E-Journals (75% and 75.83); E-Catalogues (66.67% and 61.67%) and E-Dictionaries (60.83% and 70.83%) respectively. More than fifty percent of the Science students and more than forty percent of the Commerce students used E-Newspapers, E-Magazines and E-Thesis respectively.

**TABLE 5**  
**USE OF ONLINE DATABASES**

S.No.	Online Databases	Commerce (N=120)	Percentage	Science (N=120)	Percentage
1	Google Scholar	105	87.50	110	91.67
2	Open Source Databases	99	82.50	102	85.00
3	NLIST	95	79.17	85	70.83
4	ACM Digital Library	36	30.00	96	80.00
5	Delnet	24	20.00	18	15.00

It is clear from the Table 5 that high percent of the Commerce students used the Google Scholar (87.50%), Open Source Databases (82.50%) and NList (79.17%) databases. On the other hand, thirty and twenty percent of Commerce students used the ACM Digital Library and Delnet Databases respectively. The majority of the Science students used the Google Scholar (91.67%), Open Source Databases (85%), NList (70.83%) and ACM Digital Library (80%) databases and (15%) of them used Delnet database.

**TABLE 6**  
**PURPOSE OF USING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

S.No.	Purpose	Commerce (N=120)	Percentage	Science (N=120)	Percentage
1	Academic Work	108	90.00	114	95.00
2	Writing Articles	78	65.00	102	85.00
3	Preparing for Competitive Exams	84	70.00	96	80.00
4	Updating Knowledge	60	50.00	90	75.00

It is clear from the Table 6 that most of the Commerce and Science students using the Electronic resources for the purpose of Academic work (90% and 95%); Writing Articles (65% and 85%), Preparing for competitive exams (70% and 80%) and updating knowledge (50% and 75%) respectively.

**TABLE 7**  
**PROBLEMS FACED WHILE ACCESSING THE E-RESOURCES**

S.No.	Purpose	Commerce (N=120)	Percentage	Science (N=120)	Percentage
1	Lack of Training	102	85.00	84	70.00
2	Overload of information	96	80.00	105	87.50
3	Slow access speed	90	75.00	60	50.00
4	More Expensive	78	65.00	48	40.00
5	Lack of Time	42	35.00	24	20.00

It is clear from the Table 7 that Lack of training (85% ); Overload of information (80%); Slow access speed (75%) and more expensive (65%) are the major problems faced by the majority of the Commerce students while accessing E-resources. On the other hand, overload of information (87.50%); Lack of training (70%) and Slow Access Speed (50%) are the major problems faced by the majority of the Science students while accessing E-Resources.

### Major Findings

The main findings of the study are presented below:

- The equal numbers of the respondents were selected from the Commerce and Science subjects.
- Google Chrome and Mozilla Fire web browsers were used by the majority of Commerce and Science students.
- The majority of the respondents from Commerce and Science subject have used Google and Yahoo search engines. Bing search engine was used by (43.33%) of Commerce and (28.33 %) of Science students.
- The majority of the Commerce and Science students used the E-Books (70.83% and 80%); E-Journals (75% and 75.83%); E-Catalogues (66.67% and 61.67% ) and E-Dictionaries (60.83% and 70.83%) respectively.
- The high percent of the Commerce students used the Google Scholar (87.50%),Open Source Databases (82.50%) and NList (79.17%) databases. The majority of the Science students used the Google Scholar (91.67%), Open Source Databases (85%), NList (70.83% ) and ACM Digital Library (80%) databases.
- The most of the Commerce and Science students using the Electronic resources for the purpose of Academic work (90% and 95%); Writing Articles (65% and 85%), Preparing for competitive exams (70% and 80%) and updating knowledge (50% and 75%) respectively.
- The Lack of training; overload of information and slow access speed are the major problems faced by the majority of the Commerce and Science students while accessing E-Resources.

### V. CONCLUSION

The present study investigates the usage level of the Electronic resource by the Commerce and Science students studying in the selected Arts and Science College in Madurai. The researcher selected the respondents who are studying second year or third year undergraduate course in Commerce or Science field. The study found that there is no significant difference between usage of Electronic resources among Commerce and Science students. Both of the students mainly used the E-Books, E-Journals, E-Catalogues and E-Dictionaries for their academic qwork, writing article and preparing for competitive examinations.

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