



## Medical College Libraries and the Use of Information Technology and Services: Perspective of Andhra Pradesh

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### ORIGINAL ARTICLE



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Received on : 28/05/2022

Revised on : -----

Accepted on : 04/06/2022

Plagiarism : 09% on 28/05/2022



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Medical College Libraries and the Use of Information Technology and Services: Perspective of A.P. Abstract: Because of the rapid advancement of information technology, librarianship has seen significant transformations in recent years. E-resources are now an essential component of any library. Documents are being converted from print to electronic format.

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### ABSTRACT

Because of the rapid advancement of information technology, librarianship has seen significant transformations in recent years. E-resources are now an essential component of any library. Documents are being converted from print to electronic format. The library is increasingly relying on electronic resources. There are various advantages to using electronic resources rather than printed ones. The world's information landscape has been transformed by the huge advancement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Significant alterations have been made to the ways in which data is generated and stored as well as how it is accessed, retrieved, and consumed as a result. This research looked at how Andhra Pradesh's medical school libraries employ technology and services. One-quarter of the 206 participants (26.93 percent) report spending "greater than 4 hours" on any given day. According to the results of the poll, people were asked for their thoughts on the best ways to acquire information and what formats they liked. The overwhelming majority of 336 (43.92 percent) of the respondents favoured 'printed' library books in the first place.

### KEYWORDS

ICT, Internet, User studies, Medical Websites, Online Databases, Government and Private Medical College Libraries, e-resource.

### INTRODUCTION

Individual circumstances are heavily influenced by one's birthplace and upbringing when it comes to today's young people's exposure to a diverse range of cultural, economic, social,

and educational experiences. Life expectancy and quality of life can be improved by medical science. It prevents human misery is alleviated, as are ailments caused by civilization's progress. It contributes to the creation of new pharmaceuticals, procedures, and tools for disease research, analysis, and treatment. The popularity and utilisation of electronic items has exploded. Teaching and learning, as well as research and development, as well as the discovery and founding of new fields of study, can and do profit from their utilisation. The electronic Library's mission statement is that it is committed to offering print and electronic resources to students and teachers to aid in research and curriculum development. The library has employed IT applications effectively and strategically to achieve that aim, resulting in the emergence of e-library within traditional libraries<sup>1</sup>. To satisfy all of their information demands, library patrons no longer have to visit the library during regular business hours. As a result, users can search the library's online catalogue, use one of the library's subject guides or databases to find information on the Internet, or they can read full-text articles from Web-based journals using one of the library's electronic journals.

For medical practitioners, the fast spread of information in our day has significant implications educationalist needs the number of online sources of information is growing at an exponential rate. In tandem with this rise in Internet usage for academic purposes, this is a natural development<sup>2</sup>. The internet is the most cost-effective, convenient, quick, and comprehensive source of up-to-date data. To find medical literature, educate doctors and educate patients and to provide telemedicine, the internet is an excellent resource. Medical organizations, instructional resources, academic departments, patient-oriented websites, and business and index sites are just few of the types of websites that are available. Rapid advancements are being made in internet-based communication technology.

## **Review of Literature**

Coastal medical college library According to a survey conducted in Karnataka by Baikadi (2010), "staff and student satisfaction with the web resources available at the Medical College Libraries" is good. The distribution of surveys resulted in a response rate of 67.82 percent; however, only 472 of the 696 questionnaires given were returned filled out and usable. According to a recent survey<sup>3</sup>, both students and instructors were pleased with the breadth of online resources available through their libraries. The vast majority of respondents were satisfied with the PubMed/Medline bibliographic databases provided by the libraries. The significant majority of respondents were satisfied with online journals, open access resources/databases, including full-text online databases like ScienceDirect and MD Consult. Libraries have a long history, according to the study.

Farahil and Gandhi investigated and contrasted medical libraries in Karnataka, India and Iran (2011). Both libraries had ICT amenities such as hardware, software, and communication capabilities<sup>5</sup>. Many medical libraries, both in the United States and elsewhere, are still run by hand. Iranian librarians suffer a variety of obstacles, including a lack of institutional support, finance, competent staff and ICT implementation planning and training courses, whereas Indian medical librarians have not faced any of these issues.

A study on "Access and understanding of ICT resources and services"<sup>6</sup> by Dhanavandan, Esmail, and Nagarajan (2012) focused on medical college libraries in Puducherry. For finding relevant information, the majority of respondents (87.33 percent) used e-resources, followed by communication (54.66 percent), relevant information (34.66 percent), and professional development (34.66 percent) (20.66 percent). According to the survey, 50% of respondents learned new abilities through external training, 48% learned through advice, and 48% learned by doing (16 percent). The majority of respondents are aware of constraints such as too much information gathered (73.33 percent) and limited access to digital terminals (66.66 percent).

Medical professors and students at the Sher-E-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) use e-resources for research and study, according to Bhat and Mudhol (2014), and libraries play a vital role in connecting them to these resources<sup>7</sup>. E-resources are increasingly being used by academics and medical students in their departments or on their personal computers and laptops. Libraries must develop the necessary technology themselves in order to efficiently provide these services. Only if the internet's speed is increased can e-resources be accessed fast. The SKIMS Central Library requires teacher and student training and orientation programmes in order to maximise the use of e-resources<sup>8</sup>. As a result, the SKIMS Library may be able to provide orientation programmes and subscribe to more resources.

Rao and Mudhol began their research on "Utilization of web resources at medical college libraries in Coastal Karnataka" (2013). The expanding importance of internet-based knowledge sources has attracted the interest of professionals, students, and academics around the world, according to the findings, and is changing the way education is performed.<sup>9</sup> Most libraries have made their collections available online to satisfy the rising demand for information, allowing students to access them from anywhere. At six Coastal Karnataka medical colleges, more than half of post-doctoral students and staff utilise the internet for research.

### Objectives of the Study

- To examine the frequency with which respondents use medical information.
- Assessing the amount to which respondents have access to web-based information.
- Examine the respondents' motives for obtaining web materials.
- To find out how the respondents feel about using the web-based materials.

### The Library's ICT-Based Services

ICT-based library services necessitate the use of new technology by libraries to meet the information needs of their customers. Some of the benefits of library services based on ICT include the following:

- Availability of information.
- Easy accessibility.
- The Digital Library's Services.
- As well as the E-Learning Service.
- Document Delivery over the Internet.
- literacy in the digital age.
- Institutional Repository Service (IRS).
- Streamlining of information access.
- Techniques for putting data to use.
- High level of expertise and expertise.
- Effortless access.
- Public access online directories accessible via the internet.

### Methodology

An information technology (IT) is a term used to describe the use of computers in a business or other industry to store, examine, retrieve, send, and manipulate data or information. IT is a subset of ICT, which includes both hardware and software (ICT). In order to get an idea of the current state of the libraries, 9 librarians were given a questionnaire. Physical library services, automation and networking are all included in the test. Student feedback on library services and amenities was obtained

through a second survey of medical students and teachers at UG and PG medical colleges. At the end, 765 out of 1000 questionnaires were issued, and 76.5 percent of respondents from each of the nine Medical College Libraries were chosen for the study.

## Data Analysis

The next sections describe, analyse, and evaluate the data gathered from the survey of nine medical college libraries in Andhra Pradesh.

**Table 1:** Respondents' Gender-specific distribution

Gender	No. of Respondents	%
Male	584	76.34
Female	181	23.66
Total	765	100.00

(Source: Primary Data)

### Respondents' gender-specific distribution

According to Table 1 below, 76.34 percent of respondents are male and 23.66 percent are female in sample data from medical colleges.

**Table 2:** Distribution of respondent based on their age

Age Group	No. of Respondents	%
21-25 Years	426	55.68
26-30 Years	131	17.12
31-35 Years	097	12.67
36-40 Years	069	9.01
Above 41 Years	042	5.49
Total	765	100.00

(Source: Primary Data)

### Distribution of respondent based on their age

A breakdown of the respondents' age ranges is shown in the following table 2. It can be seen from the table that the age-wise distribution is likewise about equal. A total of 426 respondents (55.68 percent) are between 21 and 25 years old, followed by 131 (17.12 percent) who are between 26 and 30 years old, 97 (12.67 percent) who are between 31 and 35 years old, and finally 69 (9.01 percent) who are between 36 and 40 years old. 42 people in the 41-plus age group responded to the survey (5.49 percent).

**Table 3:** The amount of time spent in the library

Frequency	No. of Respondents	%
Daily	351	45.88
2-3 times a week	230	30.06
Once a week	103	13.46
2-3 times a month	047	6.14
Once a month	034	4.44
Total	765	100.00

(Source: Primary Data)

### Frequency of trips to library

The frequency of library visits by respondents is shown in Table: 3. A total of 351 (45.88 percent) of the library's users visit the library 'daily', followed by 230 (30.06 percent) who visit the library

twice a week, 103 (13.46 percent) who come once a week, and 47 (6.14%) who visit the library twice a month. This indicates that the majority of library patrons come in frequently. Although 34 (4.44%) of the respondents stated that they go to the library “once a month,” this is still a significant number.

**Table 4:** The main reason for going to the library

Purpose	No. of Respondents	%
Study	561	26.47
Research Work	381	17.98
Refer Books	151	7.13
Refer Journals	390	18.40
Access the web resources	207	10.1
Browsing Internet	124	5.15
e-Mail/Chat	106	5.00
Other Purpose	200	9.44
Total	2119	100.00

(Source: Primary Data)

### Visiting the Library’s Purpose

In Table 4, it is shown that the reason for visiting a library is concerned, although 562 (26.52%) of respondents have exclusively noted that they visit libraries for “study” purpose, followed by 390 (18.40%) respondents who visit for “refer journals,” by 380 (17.93%) respondents who visit for research work, by 205 (9.67%) respondents who visit for “access the web resources,” by 200(9.44%) respondents with very little variance visit their libraries. The percentage of those that responded was 26.52 percent. As a result, the vast majority of respondents stated that they go to the library to “study.”

**Table 5:** Satisfaction with the use of IT

Rating	No. of Respondents	%
Strongly Agree	192	25.09
Agree	262	34.24
Uncertain	123	16.07
Disagree	96	12.54
Strongly disagree	92	12.03
Total	765	100

(Source: Primary Data)

### Customer satisfaction with the use of IT

260 respondents (33.99 percent) said they were “strongly agreed” that they were satisfied with the application of information technology (IT) in their library, 194 (25.3 percent) said they were “agreed,” 12 (15.69%) said they were “uncertain,” 99 (12.94 percent) said they “disagree,” and 92 said they were “dissatisfied.” More over three-quarters of those polled 33.99 percent voiced their support for IT.

### Findings

- A study indicated that roughly 351 (45.88 percent) of the library’s visitors come in on a “daily” basis.
- According to the survey, 26.47% of the respondents stated that they go to the library to “study.”
- Web resources are used by the vast majority of respondents, with only a small percentage of respondents (3.79%) not accessing web resources.
- An impressive 37.78 percent of the 289 survey participants reported using their “library” to access online materials.

- Although only 197 (25.75 percent) of the respondents specifically stated that they utilise web resources for 'clinical practise', the study concluded that the purpose of using web resources is a concern.
- 89.54 percent of respondents said they utilise the 'NTRMEDNET Consortium' as a web resource.
- According to the results of the study, respondents believe that slow internet and network connectivity is the most pressing issue, with a response rate of 189 (24.71 percent).
- The majority of respondents (34.24 percent) 'agree' that their libraries have a satisfactory degree of Information Technology.

## Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are offered:

1. The library should have more computer terminals so that instructors and students may easily utilise them.
2. More resources should be devoted to enhancing electronic resources for the benefit of the end-user community.
3. To get up-to-date information, people should be made aware of the existence of online resources.
4. In order to ensure that as many users as possible have the opportunity to develop their skills in the use of electronic resources, medical libraries should hold periodic orientation programmes.

## CONCLUSIONS

The way information is collected, structured, accessed, stored, and consumed has undergone radical transformation because to the emergence of new technologies. Medical college libraries in the state of Andhra Pradesh are being evaluated in this research. A sample of nine medical college libraries was used in the study. In the survey, it was found that all but a few libraries were fully digitised, whereas the rest of the libraries studied were not. Many of them, on the other hand, believe that keeping one's e-resources up to date has a significant impact. The study's findings show that medical college libraries are in a good place, and the money they spend on e-resource development and subscriptions to online eresources is well spent. According to this data, the country's research and development organisation is performing well. The quality and grade of the output from medical colleges is directly linked to the quality and effectiveness of the library services provided by medical college libraries. The Andhra Pradesh medical institutions' research output will be impacted more by the digital era's use of web resources.

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