

**UTILISATION OF E-BOOKS BY THE PATRONS OF UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY, MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY,
TIRUNELVELI, TAMILNADU**

UGC CARE
APPROVED

ABSTRACT

The researcher attempted to analyze the users' opinions about the e-books available in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library, Tirunelveli. The researcher constructed a questionnaire and selected 250 users of the library, including P.G. students, research scholars, and faculty. The researcher used stratified random sampling to select the study's respondents. The 250 questionnaires were personally distributed to the selected users of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University library. The fully completed response received from the respondents was only 238. The study revealed that respondents found the e-books from the university library and e-mailed the same to themselves. The budget provision for the procurement of e-books and collection of e-books for the University Library should be increased.

Key Words : E-Books usage pattern, P.G students, Research scholars, faculty, MS University

Introduction

E-books have reached a significant acceptance in academic and research libraries due to the gradual evolution of public acceptance of e-books. Awareness of e-books is still not optimal in part because students, research scholars, and faculty are not fully aware of the presence of e-books in library collections (Lonsdale and Armstrong, 2008). The emergence of the e-book reader and other handheld devices for delivering and presenting texts has changed everything. As a software object, an e-book is simply an electronic text that serves the same purpose as a conventional printed book and may also share some of the looks and feel of a printed book. E-books may also be enhanced with other electronic features such as embedded hyperlinks, bookmarks, annotation, text searching, and the linking of complex multimedia objects.

Review of Literature

Hsu, Lin, Chen, Chang, and Hsieh (2017) examined the key factors that affect users' adoption of e-books using an extension of the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology (UTAUT) that includes the following factors: environmental concerns, perceived benefits, and benevolence trust. The results showed that users' adoption of e-books is determined by performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence, facilitating conditions,

environmental concern, perceived benefit, and benevolence trust.

Viji and Balasubramanian (2020) examined the use of library resources and services among postgraduate students in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Tirunelveli Library. 75 copies of the questionnaire were circulated to the students; the return rate was 68%. The significant findings were; that the majority of the postgraduate students use the library regularly. Their primary purpose in visiting the library is to consult research materials. They used more internet sources, and their major challenge was a lack of time. They were also satisfied with the library services.

Balasubramanian and Santhanakumar (2022) analyzed the torrential impact of discursive digitized repositories in the university libraries of Tamilnadu. The study was a questionnaire-based survey method. The study showed that members used various information sources to

S. MEENA

Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India.

Dr. P. BALASUBRAMANIAN

University Librarian, Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India.

pursue their teaching, research, and academic work. Some respondents preferred books/reference books, law reports, statutes, and journals. Several respondents preferred ICT-based library resources to print resources, with most stating that they have excellent computing skills. This use may be due to the availability and advancement of e-resources.

Statement of Problem

The traditional process of organizing, retrieving, disseminating, and managing information is being replaced by new methods and techniques using sophisticated information technologies. In such a situation, the higher education curriculum and libraries rely much on the electronic environment. Much research still needs to understand the use of e-books by users. The institutional and university libraries need to find out how their users currently use their e-books. Hence the researcher initiated to analyze the users’ opinions about the availability of–books, their contents, and the quality of services of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library.

Objectives of the study

- To identify the demographic profile of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University library users.
- To identify the purpose of using the library e-books.
- To evaluate users’ satisfaction level with–books and services of a sample unit.

Null Hypothesis

H.O. : The respondents’ usage pattern of–books do not influence their satisfaction.

Methodology

The study covers the students, faculty, and research scholars of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University at Tirunelveli. The researcher has chosen empirical research to measure the students, scholars, and staff opinions about the e-books of university libraries and their satisfaction level with the available books and their contents. The University library has 2490 registered members as of August 31, 2022, out of which 250 questionnaires were distributed to the users, including P.G students, research scholars, and faculty

members. The researcher adopted a stratified random sampling technique to select the 250 users of the library.

Then the researcher distributed the firm questionnaires to the sample size chosen personally and received only 238 fully completed questionnaires.

Data Analysis and Interpretation :

Table 1 : Frequency of Visiting Library

Frequency	P.G Students		Ph.D. Scholars		Faculty	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Daily	31	16.76	7	20.59	3	15.79
Twice a week	35	18.92	9	26.47	5	26.32
Weekly	53	28.65	11	32.35	6	31.58
Twice a Month	41	22.16	4	11.76	3	15.79
Monthly	19	10.27	2	5.88	2	10.53
Occasionall	6	3.24	1	2.94	0	0
Total	185	100	34	100	19	100

(Source : Primary Data)

Table 1 shows the frequency of respondents’ visits to the university library. It is witnessed that a maximum of 53 (28.65%) P.G Students, 11 (32.35%) Ph.D. Scholars and 6 (31.58%) teachers visited the library weekly, followed by 41 (22.16%) P.G students and 4 (11.76 %) Ph.D. Scholars and 3 (15.79%) teachers visited the library twice a month.

Table 2 : Purpose of using e-books

Purpose	P.G Students		Ph.D. Scholars		Faculty	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Study	87	47.03	2	5.88	2	10.53
Publication	12	6.49	9	26.47	3	15.79
Research	21	11.35	13	38.24	5	26.32
Seminar preparation	31	16.76	4	11.76	4	21.05
Career information	18	9.73	3	8.82	2	10.53
General information	7	3.78	2	5.88	1	5.26
Entertainment	9	4.86	1	2.94	2	10.53
Total	185	100	34	100	19	100

(Source : Primary Data)

Table 2 designates the purpose of using e-books by the students. It was found that a maximum of 38.24 percent of Ph.D. scholars utilized e-books for research purposes, followed by Seminar Preparation and Career information. 47.03% of P.G. students use e-books for study followed by other purposes like seminar preparation and research.

Table 3 : Ranking of features of e-books

Variables	Response					Total	WAM	Rank
Mobility	71	63	49	34	21	238	3.542	IV
Search tools to locate words or quotes	96	54	43	27	18	238	3.769	I
Ability to bookmark pages	59	46	57	62	14	238	3.311	VI
Instant access to content	74	74	53	21	16	238	3.71	II
Multimedia feat	47	57	65	34	35	238	3.197	VIII
Search and browse dictionaries and indices	87	51	44	28	28	238	3.592	III
Ability to maintain my collection/bookshelf	53	71	38	24	52	238	3.206	VII
Personalize the look and feel	69	54	43	46	26	238	3.395	V
Others	55	49	41	48	45	238	3.088	IX

Table 3 discloses the respondents' opinions about the important features of e-books. It is observed that the first rank is given the variable "Search tools to locate words or quotes" with a mean score of 3.769, followed by the second rank to the feature "Instant access to content" and the third rank to the variable "Search and browse dictionary and indices" (mean score of 3.592).

**Table 4 :
The Pattern of using the e-books**



Sl no	Particulars	Hendry Garrett's Score					Total	Rank
		1	2	3	4	5		
1	Read it from a screen (RUP1)	4575	3480	2350	1160	1075	12640	II
2	Print out relevant pages or chapters (RUP2)	4050	4140	1200	1560	1300	12250	VI
3	E-mail it to me	5400	4080	1600	1760	550	13390	I
4	Bookmark/save the URL for future use (RUP4)	4800	3540	1400	1880	1000	12620	III
5	Save it or download it (RUP5)	4575	2880	2700	1560	900	12615	IV
6	Copy and paste the portions I want into a document	4425	3300	1900	1880	975	12480	VII
7	Purchase the soft copy (RUP7)	3525	3540	3050	1880	600	12595	V
8	Borrow a print copy from the library (RUP8)	3600	3420	2300	1560	1200	12080	VIII

Table 4 shows Hendry Garrett's ranking of the variables related to the usage pattern of e-books. Most of the respondents found the e-book from the university library website and E-mail it to themselves (Hendry Garrett's Score of 13390), followed by the variable "Read it from a screen" and 'Bookmark/save the URL for future use'.

Table 5 : Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.836 ^a	0.699	0.692	0.91234

a. Predictors: (Constant), Respondents using the pattern of e-books

R-value denotes the correlation between the users' satisfaction with the e-books available in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University library at Tirunelveli and their use pattern of e-books. A value greater than 0.4 is taken for further analysis. In this case, the value is 0.836, which is good. R-square shows the total variation for the dependent variable that the independent variables could explain. A value greater than 0.5 shows that the model is effective enough to determine the relationship. In this case, the value is .699, which is good.

Adjusted R-square the value is .692, which is not far from .692, so it is good. Therefore, the model summary table is satisfactory to proceed with the next step

Table 6 : ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1010.499	12	84.208	101.166	.000 ^b
	Residual	434.499	225	0.832		
	Total	1444.998	237			

The p-value/ sig value is .000. Therefore, the result is significant. F-ratio represents an improvement in the prediction of the variable by fitting the model after considering the inaccuracy present in the model. A value greater than 1 for F-ratio yield efficient model. In the above table, the value is 101.166, which is good. There is a possibility of rejecting the null hypothesis in further analysis.

**Table 7
Regression Coefficients**

UGC CARE
APPROVED

Independent Variable	B	Std. Error	Beta	"t" Value	"p" value
(Constant)	4.176	0.703		5.939	.000***
RUP1	1.038	0.105	1.32	9.894	.000***
RUP2	-0.864	0.074	-0.918	-11.71	.000***
RUP3	-0.513	0.065	-0.519	-7.941	.000***
RUP4	-0.272	0.125	-0.209	-2.169	.031**
RUP5	0.016	0.032	0.021	0.513	.608*
RUP6	-0.058	0.121	-0.064	-0.482	.630*
RUP7	1.01	0.057	1.046	17.691	.000***
RUP8	0.518	0.028	0.523	18.433	.000***

Table 7 reveals how the independent variables influence the dependent variable chosen for the study. Out of eight variables selected regarding the Respondents' usage pattern of e-books, six variables influence the dependent variable, " Respondents' satisfaction with e-books available in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University library at Tirunelveli. " since the "t" value of the self-determining variables is more than the critical value of 1.96. The agreeing "p" value is less than 0.01 / 0.05 at a 99 / 95 percent level of confidence. Hence it is concluded that the null hypothesis is rejected and accepted the alternative hypothesis, "Respondents' usage pattern of e-books have influenced their satisfaction with the e-books available in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University library at Tirunelveli.

Findings

The research scholars are highly satisfied with the availability of e-books, followed by teaching staff and students. Female members of the library are more highly satisfied than male members. Respondents belonging to the age group of below 25 years are highly satisfied, and those from rural areas are highly satisfied with e-books in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar university library at Tirunelveli.

The profile variables of the selected respondents have statistically significant importance on the dependent variable - the responses about satisfaction with the books available in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University library.

The null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted - "Respondents' usage pattern of books have influenced their satisfaction with the books available in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library, Tirunelveli.

Conclusion

E-books form a growing part of the collections at research and academic libraries. Although it's still in the early stages of adoption, e-books have demonstrated advantages in accessibility, functionality, and cost-effectiveness. Users regard convenience, accessibility, and enhanced functionality as the primary benefits of e-books. E-books can ensure better knowledge delivery or accessibility and a long-lasting knowledge repository. So researchers should make use of this facility to keep abreast with e-book technology. The analysis revealed that Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library at Tirunelveli is growing and have a strong potential in terms of collection and resources, especially e-resources, but the budget provision for the procurement of e-book and collection of the e-book for the University Library need to be increased considerably.

References

1. Balasubramanian, P., & Santhanakumar. (2022). *Torrential impact of discursive digitized repositories in the university libraries of Tamil Nadu. A Ph.D. thesis submitted to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.*
2. Embong, A., Noor, A. M., & Hashim, H. M. (2012). *E-books as textbooks in the classroom. Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences, 47, 1802-1809.*
3. Hsu, C. -L., Lin, Y. -H., Chen, M. -C., Chang K. -C., & Hsieh, A. -Y. (2017). *Investigating the determinants of e-book adoption. The program, 51(1), 2-16. DOI: 10.1108/PROG-04-2014-0022.*
4. Ketron, S., & Naletelich, K. (2016). *How e-readers have changed personal connections with books. Qualitative*

5. *Market Research: An International Journal, 19(4), 433-452, DOI: 10.1108/QMR-10-2015-0078*
6. Oberhelman, D. D. (2011). *Rekindling reference? E-book readers and reference collections. Reference Reviews, 25(1). doi: 10.1108/rr.2011.09925aaa.003*
7. Rao, S.S. (2003). *Electronic books: a review and evaluation. Library Hi Tech, 21, 85-93.*
8. Viji, P., & Balasubramanian, P. (2020). *P.G Students satisfaction with academic library resources and services: Manonmaniam Sundaranar university library Experience. Library Progress (International), 40(1) 21-24. Retrieved from https://www.bpasjournals.com/admin/upload/dynamic2/3Lib-172-2020P21-24.pdf*
9. Wilson, R. (2003). *E-book Readers in Higher Education. Educational Technology & Society, 6(4), 8-17. Retrieved from http://ifets.ieee.org/periodical/6_4/3.pdf.*