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Users' Usage Patterns of Printed Books and E-books in Ballari District Engineering College Libraries: A Study

Dr. Jaffer Basha, S
Librarian
Ballari Institute of Technology & Management, Ballari

Abstract

The concept of this paper is to determine how printed books and E-books are effectively used by engineering college's faculty of Ballari district, Karnataka, for their curriculum. With this in mind, an attempt was made to investigate the sophistication and comfort in the use of printed and E-books an online survey method was used as the research design to facilitate the collection of data from users of the library. The study found out that print resources are more preferred than electronic ones. Printed books are ever green resources; print books just won't die; printed hardcover books are much loved for their authenticity; even in this digital era, it makes the trend toward a paperless world clear. The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic was a boon to print publishing.

Keywords: E-books, Printed books, Professional College users

Introduction:

The primary objective of the academic libraries is to provide academic information and services for teaching, learning and research. In recent times, the proliferation of information resources in both print and electronic formats has been seen in most academic libraries.

Printed books and eBooks are reliable means of obtaining knowledge in society, through Institute and corporate organizations are increasingly moving towards eBooks for training purposes because eBooks are better equipped to provide an engaging learning and reading experience to users. Digital Publishing has been forthcoming large over print versions for quite some time now. But print publishers are still standing strong despitethe popularity of digital devices. Today's college students have grown up in a digital world, so one might expect that most of them would prefer e-textbooks to print on paper,

but that's not the case according to a study. The study finds that 62% of collegestudents prefer print textbooks to e-textbooks for academic preparation. Students who prefer print text books say they are easier to read and that they have trouble on e-text books and also said that they dint required internet.

Objectives of the Study

Identify information users' preferences regarding the use of print and electronic resources.

1. To find-out users preference regarding the use of the printed books and e-books status in the digital era.
2. to find the users preference in engineering colleges of Ballari district in utilization of the print and eBooks
3. To find if any disparity in the utilization among the streams of students.

Methodology

The necessary information is collected through administering Questionnaire among the sample students. Survey method was used for this study, a sample of 300 respondents were Selected based on stratified sampling method in engineering colleges of Ballari district . Ballari district consists of Ballari, Kampli, Sandur, Sirguppa and Kurugodu taluks.

Literature Review

Melcher, A. (2017, p.62) conducted a library survey at Carmichael library, University of Montevallo, Alabama, US on e-Books and e-Book readers. Respondents comprised students and staff. The results showed a general preference of using print books, whereby 59.6 percent of the respondents read printed books, but also occasionally read e-books. Since the study was conducted in the US, a nation endowed with advanced socio-economic and cultural patterns of development, it is difficult to generalize the findings of this study to a localized and particularized context of Tanzania. Indeed, the current study was carried out in Tanzania' university settings.[1]

Indeed, Sharama and Kumar (2016) argue that when reading materials are available in a variety of formats, users' preferences must be considered in order to generate a needbased investment in the acquisition of such resources and to ensure a balanced library collection. WU (2005) emphasi this underst anding by stating that a twentyfirsts ed century academic library must have both traditional print materials and electronic resources.[2]

Electronic resources refer to materials whose use requires a computer or related technology. E-Journals, e-books, full-text databases, reference databases, dictionaries, and encyclopedias are among the resources (IFLA, 2012). [3]

A study by Woody, Daniel & Baker (2010) revealed that when given the option, 90 percent of undergraduate students chose a physical textbook rather than a digital version of the same book. The students who participated in the study reported that they were more likely to read captions, look at charts, read section summaries and answer study questions in printed books. These results

show a need to examine the uses of academic books in relation to the advent of e-readers and tablet devices. [4]

Kiondo (2004), Liu (2006), Yuan et al. (2018) Sharma (2016), and Wu (2005) who found that many academic libraries had a healthy collection of print resources, and as such there was a need to adopt hybrid collections. Until those values can be replicated in the other media, both formats must be collected, maintained and supported by libraries. Similarly, Zell (2013) contends that digital and print formats would continue being complimentary in the 'foreseeable future. [5]

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List of Engineering Colleges under study.

Sl	Name of the College/Institute	Place	Year of Establishment
01	Rao Bahaddur Y Mahabaleshwarappa (RYMEC)	Ballari	1980
02	Ballari Institute of Technology & Management (BITM)	Ballari	1997

Table-1: **Gender wise distribution of respondents**

Sl	Gender	Percentage
1	Male	195 (65%)
2	Female	105 (35%)
	Total	300 (100%)

Table 1 indicates that 65 per cent were male respondents and 35 per cent respondents are female. The result shows that male respondents were more than female respondents in engineering colleges of Ballari district.

Table 2: Usage of Printed books and e-Resources   **N=300**
Table: 02

which book format do you prefer for academic study		
Variables	Respondents	Percentage
Printed Books	189	63
E-Books	81	27
Both	30	10
Total	300	100

Source: Survey

FINDINGS

Source: Survey (2021-22) Respondents from the engineering colleges of Ballari district were asked to indicate the type of resources they preferred the most reading. As Table 2 demonstrates, overall, the majority of the respondents, 189 (63%), indicated their preferences for print resources, followed by 81 (27%) who preferred e-resources and 30 (10%) who preferred both. The reality on the ground also shows that the majority of the respondents prefer printed form of Books over electronic books.

Table 3: Reason for preferring Printed Books   N=300

Table: 03

Sl.	Variable	Respondents	Percent
1	For More Information	33	11
2	Easier on the eyes	54	18
3	Less distracted	159	53
4	More realistic	45	15
5	Battery Free	09	03
	Total	300	100

Source: Survey

Findings:

Source: Survey (2021-22) Respondents from the engineering colleges of Ballari district were asked to indicate the purpose of using print Books for reading. As Table 3demonstrates, overall, the majority of the respondents, 159(53%), indicated their preferences for print resources as less distracted, followed by 54 (18%) who preferred print books as it is easier on the eyes, 45(15%) who says that print books are more realistic. 33 (11%), respondents indicated their preferences for print resources as more information and 09 (3%), indicated their preferences for print resources as less battery free.

Conclusion:

Deep reading is an important and rare practice, but unfortunately, because our attention spans are falling quicker than ever before, we are losing our ability to read slowly. Reading books provides knowledge of the outside world, improving their reading, writing, and speaking skills, as well as boosting their memory and intelligence.

As both print and e-books have their share of advantages and weaknesses, the readers, may trust on both versions, depending on our determination and other contextual factors.

The overall conclusion and lessons emerging from this study indicate that the majority of the respondents still prefer printed books than e-books. While there are many benefits and drawbacks associated with each medium, the greatest disadvantage of e-book readers is that they could erode our "deep reading" skills, particularly if we rely solely on a browse-and-scan approach.

Recommendation:

Book reading demographics vary according to education and income level. In India due to economy people can't afford internet and high end e book-readers.

Parents carry a great responsibility to provide reading materials for their youngsters from their child hood as it will develop Compassion, Self-discipline in them.

The government and mass media must organize reading programs for students and inculcate reading and learning skills instead of encouraging trivial programs and time-consuming initiatives and policies in educational institutes. Encourage reading in class rooms; it will transform today's youngsters to active and responsible citizens of tomorrow.

Textbooks' affordability is a rising concern in the world's higher education learning context, which has led to several solutions that have been recommended to the governments to make textbooks more affordable for students, researchers, and faculty.

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