



“PURPOSE OF USING THE e-RESOURCES WITH RESPECT TO RESEARCH SCHOLARS”

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ABSTRACT

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been have an essential tool in researchers' academic and research development. Especially, the research scholars use and apply internet based e-resources (electronic resources) for their research development. So, e-resources are the prominent role of research scholars' academic performance and attainment. This paper describes the knowledge utilisation and satisfaction levels of research scholars with regard to the e-resources. The study is involved in knowing the scholastic or knowledge of the scholars of a Bharathiar University in Tamil Nadu in using the available knowledge and the utility of e-resources. The study reveals that most of the research scholars of different departments are using e-resources with different purposes. Most of the research scholars are utilizing e-resources with their research and development.

Key words: ICT, e-resources, knowledge utilisation, satisfaction levels, research scholars, Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu, Departments.

INTRODUCTION

The educational environment is changing rapidly as a consequence of information communication technology (ICT) and will continue to change. The fastest growth of information and communication technologies has given rise to the education of several new paperless societies, electronic resources (e-resources), and also the portal/gateway of global digital era. Among multitude of possible new ways of learning the information, super highway technology takes the first position. And technology influences all walks of human life. It is the gateway of information, knowledge and research. So technology provides better access to information. Especially electronic resources play a vital role in supporting academic activities of universities and institutes, and such institutes have been incorporated with various technology based electronic resources for collection and development of data/

information to fulfil the requirements of the different category of users in a better way. Especially research scholars use internet based e-resources to collect the review of related literature available all over the world. So e-resource is booming popular in higher education in the world market and there is a massive movement for global e-resources. In India especially, higher education has tremendous growth in providing quality education based on e-resources. It is right time to evaluate or assess the users of electronic resources. In the research field the quality of research must be enhanced by the knowledge and use of internet based e- resource. So it is clear that the internet based e–resource is inevitable in the research field. The present study is involved in knowing the scholastic or knowledge of the scholars of a Bharathiar University in Tamil Nadu in using the available knowledge and the utility of e–resources.

e–RESOURCES: MEANING

Material consisting of data or computer programs enclosed for reading and manipulation by a computer by the use of a peripheral device directly connected to the computer, such as the CD–Rom drive, or remotely via a network, such as the Internet. The category includes software applications, electronic texts, bibliographic database, institutional repositories, websites, e-books, collections of e–journals, etc. e–resources somewhat not publicly available free of charge usually require licensing and authentication. On-line bibliographical resources and Internet, which can be accessed around the globe, through computer is called as electronic resources.

PURPOSE OF E–RESOURCES

They are 1. Content 2. Ease of use, 3. Updating 4. Maintenance 5. Standard (Quality) 6. Equipment 7. Output.

MAJOR TYPES OF e–RESOURCES

e–resources can be classified into two major types. They are 1. On - line e–resources and 2. Off - line e-resources

On line e–resources are as a digital view or electronic view through internet. And they are with storage devices. They are e–journal, e–book, e–database, e–thesis and dissertations, e–images, e–bibliographies, e–blog, and e–proceedings etc.

Off line e–resources as also digital view or electronic view through off line Internet with second level storage memory drive devices. Devices are CD/DVD Rom, pen drive, floppy, HDD etc. Normally e–resources types can be concluded with e–book,

e-journal, e-database, etc. That is any electronic product that delivers collections of data, whether a text referring to full text bases, e-journals, image collections, and other multimedia products. These may be delivered on CD/DVD Rom, on tape, via the Internet and so on. The benefit of these large sources is that they cover many subjects and thus facilitate a multidisciplinary approach.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Anna Gakibayo et al. (2013), This study assessed the utilization of electronic information resources in Mbarara University Library by the students by bringing out objectives namely; identifying the availability of e-resources in Mbarara University library, determining the extent of using e-resources and lastly proposing strategies to promote the usage of e-resources by students.

Tunji. M. et., al. (2011). This study examined the user perception of the electronic resources by the academic staff of the University of Ilorin. The sample consists of 250 academic staff selected from eight (8) out of the twelve (12) faculties that made up of the university. Data were collected through an electronic resource user perception survey (ERUPS). Responses were received from 225 (90%) academic staff of the eight faculties. Analysis revealed that the frequency of the use of electronic resources was low. Reasons alluded to were lack of time; lack of awareness to electronic resources; power shortage, ineffective communication channels, slow network and inadequate searching skills. The study recommended adequate Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) training to all categories of academic staff and provision of adequate power supply.

Nishi Singh and Subhash Chand. (2014), The present study suggested the use and satisfaction level of the users of Advanced Institute of Technology & Management Aurangabad, Palwal, Haryana (India). A questionnaire collected from 250 users with the data on preferred use of print information resources and level of user satisfaction of print and electronic resources, library services and facilities. The findings reveal that the users mainly use the textbooks compared to other print information resources. Users are more satisfied with the availability of Textbooks, Reference Books, News Papers, Magazines, Journals, Online/Offline Databases, Internet Facility, Photocopy Service, Scanning Facility, Book Lending Services, Reading Room and Furniture.

Velmurugan., C. (2013), his study aims to explore the usage of library information resources among the students of Siva Institute of Frontier Technology at

Chennai, Tamil Nadu. A total of 175 (distributed 25 questionnaire in each department) Well-structured questionnaire was distributed to the undergraduates. the majority of the respondents were well aware of e-Journals and only few respondents were having no idea about the use of e-Journals. It was observed that majority of respondents were using the Electronic version whereas only few of them were using both versions. Many problems are faced by the students even though majority of the respondents were fully satisfied with the accessibility of e-Journals.

The Present study involved that how much these e-resources are being used and what is the effectiveness of this electronic era on the non-electronic era has to be examined. The main aim of this study is to supplement the results obtained in many earlier studies, which had provided interesting general information on the use of the e-resources.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present research study is to focus on the **Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.)** and **Doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.)** research scholars of various departments of the Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. This study aims to know how they are utilizing the knowledge of research scholars with respect to the e-resources.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To determine if the knowledge (information) utilisation of e-resources with respect to research scholars are contingent on the background variables; namely Department, Gender, Accommodation, Age, Academic course pursued, Years of pursuing research study.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

There is no association between the below mentioned background variables and knowledge (information) utilisation of e-resources with respect to the research scholars. Department, Gender, Accommodation, Age, Academic courses pursued, Years of pursuing research study.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR THE STUDY

Investigator has adopted the descriptive study and survey method. The method has been adopted most appropriate for the study because it can measure research scholars background, knowledge, experience and what they know about e-resources and types of e-resources and it was well suited to the research objectives and hypothesis taken up for the study.

For the study, questionnaire tool was adopted. Investigator developed the questionnaire based on review and related literature. The questionnaire was distributed to the research scholars of

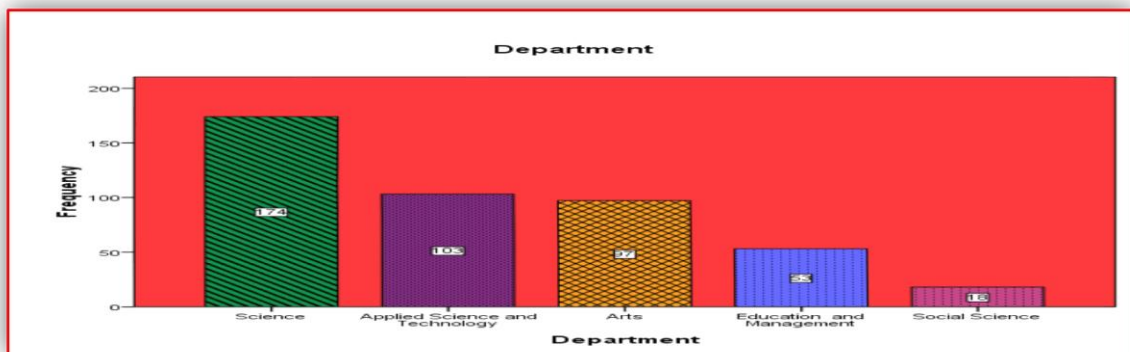
the 29 departments at Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu, India.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE & SAMPLES

The investigator used the convenient sampling technique i.e non-probability sampling technique. The investigator selected the sample of 445 research scholars from 29 different departments.

Department wise frequency distribution of the total scores

S.No	Department	Frequency	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	Science	174	39.1	39.1
2.	Applied Science and Technology	103	23.1	62.2
3.	Arts	97	21.8	84.0
4.	Education and Management	53	11.9	96.0
5.	Social Science	18	4.0	100.0
	Total	445	100.0	



STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED IN THE STUDY

The present study involved non-parametric tests. The collected data were analyzed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Statistical methods like percentage analysis and Chi - Square tests were used.

TESTING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HYPOTHESIS

The probability (p) indicates the level of statistical significance. The significant level is p equal to 0.05 and less than 0.05. Lesser the probability (p) higher would be the significance. The results of analysis are presented under the different headings. The Chi-Square (χ^2) value, degrees of freedom (df) and probability (p) are shown in each table.

Determine if the purpose of using the e-resources is contingent with respect to the department of the research scholars

Null hypothesis (H₀): There is no association between the department and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Alternative hypothesis (H₁): There is an association between the department and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Table 2 Department and purpose of using the e-resources with respect to research scholars

Department	Purpose of using the e-resources N (%)						Total	χ^2 - test; df and LOS
	research and development	Publishing journal / book	studying	career development	all	other		
Science	66 (14.8%)	15 (3.4%)	14 (3.1%)	4 (.9%)	75 (16.9%)	0 (.0%)	174 (39.1%)	26.203 ;20 P>0.05
Applied Science and Technology	28 (6.3%)	8 (1.8%)	8 (1.8%)	2 (.4%)	57 (12.8%)	0 (.0%)	103 (23.1%)	
Arts	35 (7.9%)	4 (.9%)	5 (1.1%)	1 (.2%)	52 (11.7%)	0 (.0%)	97 (21.8%)	
Education and Management	17 (3.8%)	6 (1.3%)	2 (.4%)	4 (.9%)	23 (5.2%)	1 (.2%)	53 (11.9%)	
Social Science	8 (1.8%)	0 (.0%)	2 (.4%)	1 (.2%)	7 (1.6%)	0 (.0%)	18 (4.0%)	
Total	154 (34.6%)	33 (7.4%)	31 (7.0%)	12 (2.7%)	214 (48.1%)	1 (.2%)	445 (100%)	

LOS - Level of significance – 5% Level

Table 2 reveals that, 214 (48.1%) respondents are using e-resources for all purposes whereas 154 (34.6%) are using e-resources for research and development purpose. Out of 174 (39.1%) of scholars of science department, 75 (16.9%) are using e-resources for all purposes. From the result, it is observed that the scholars of the department of science were using e-resources for all purposes more than the other categories. The Chi-Square test for independence is significant at 5% level of significance. The value of χ^2 is 26.203 and the degree of freedom (df) is 20. The value of p shows statistically significant (P>0.05). So, the null hypothesis is accepted. Alternative hypothesis is not accepted. This implies that there is no significant

variation among the department and purpose of using the e-resources with respect to research scholars.

Determine if the purpose of using the e-resources is contingent with respect to the gender of the research scholars

Null hypothesis (H₀): There is no association between the gender and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Alternative hypothesis (H₁): There is association between the gender and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Table 3 Gender and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to research scholars

Gender	Purpose of using the e – resources N (%)						Total	χ^2 - test; df and LOS
	research and develop-ment	Publishing journal / book	studying	career develop-ment	all	others		
Male	79 (17.8%)	21 (4.7%)	12 (2.7%)	7 (1.6%)	93 (20.9%)	0 (.0%)	212 (47.6%)	8.163 ;5 P>0.05
Female	75 (16.9%)	12 (2.7%)	19 (4.3%)	5 (1.1%)	121 (27.2%)	1 (.2%)	233 (52.4%)	
Total	154 (34.6%)	33 (7.4%)	31 (7.0%)	12 (2.7%)	214 (48.1%)	1 (.2%)	445 (100%)	

LOS - Level of significance – 5% Level

Table 3 reveals that, 214 (48.1%) respondents are using e-resources for all purposes whereas 154 (34.6%) are using the e-resources for research and development purpose. Out of 233 (52.4%) female scholars, 121 (27.2%) are using e-resources for all purposes. From the result, it is observed that female scholars are using the e-resources for all purposes more than the male scholars. The Chi-Square test for independence is significant at 5% level of significance. The value of χ^2 is 8.163 and the degree of freedom (df) is 5. The value of p shows statistically significant (P>0.05). So, the null hypothesis is accepted. Alternative hypothesis is not accepted. This implies that there is no significant variation among the gender and purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Determine if the purpose of using the e-resources is contingent with respect to the academic courses being pursued with regard to the research scholars

Null hypothesis (H₀): There is no association between the academic courses being pursued and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Alternative hypothesis (H₁): There is association between the academic courses being pursued and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Table 4 Academic courses being pursued and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to research scholars

Academic courses being pursued	Purpose of using the e – resources N (%)						Total	χ^2 - test; df and LOS
	research and development	Publish -ing journal / book	studying	career development	all	other		
M.Phil	58 (13.0%)	11 (2.5%)	19 (4.3%)	7 (1.6%)	85 (19.1%)	0 (.0%)	180 (40.4%)	9.10;5 P>0.05
Ph .D	96 (21.6%)	22 (4.9%)	12 (2.7%)	5 (1.1%)	129 (29.0%)	1 (.2%)	265 (59.6%)	
Total	154 (34.6%)	33 (7.4%)	31 (7.0%)	12 (2.7%)	214 48.1%	1 (.2%)	445 (100%)	

LOS - Level of significance – 5% Level

Table 4 discloses 214 (48.1%) respondents are using e-resources for all purposes whereas 154 (34.6%) are using that for research and development purposes. Out of 265 (59.6%) Ph.D scholars, 129 (29%) are using e-resources for all purposes. From the result, it is observed that Ph.D scholars are using e-resources for all purposes more than the M.Phil scholars. The Chi-Square test for independence is significant at 5% level of significance. The value of χ^2 is 9.10 and the degree of freedom (df) is 5. The value of p shows statistically significant (P>0.05). So, the null hypothesis is accepted. Alternative hypothesis is not accepted. This implies that there is no significant variation among the academic courses being pursued and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Determine if the purpose of using the e-resources is contingent with respect to the accommodation of the research scholars

Null hypothesis (H₀): There is no association between the accommodation and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Alternative hypothesis (H₁): There is association between the accommodation and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Table 5 Accommodation and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to research scholars

Accommodation	Purpose of using the e – resources N (%)						Total	χ^2 - test; df and LOS
	research and development	Publishing journal / book	studying	career development	all	others		
Days scholars	68 (15.3%)	16 (3.6%)	16 (3.6%)	7 (1.6%)	95 (21.3%)	0 (.0%)	202 (45.4%)	1.571; 6 P>0.05
Hostel scholars	86 (19.3%)	17 (3.8%)	15 (3.4%)	5 (1.1%)	119 (26.7%)	1 (.2%)	243 (54.6%)	
Total	154 (34.6%)	33 (7.4%)	31 (7.0%)	12 (2.7%)	214 (48.1%)	1 (.2%)	445 (100%)	

LOS - Level of significance – 5% Level

Table 5 shows that, 214 (48.1%) respondents are using e-resources for all purposes whereas 154 (34.6%) are using that for research and development purposes. Out of 243 (54.6%) hostel scholars, 119 (26.7%) are using e-resources for all purposes. From the result, it is observed that hostel scholars are using e-resources all purposes more than the day scholars. The Chi-Square test for independence is significant at 5% level of significance. The value of χ^2 is 1.571 and the degree of freedom (df) is 6. The value of p shows statistically significant (P>0.05). So, the null hypothesis is accepted. Alternative hypothesis is not accepted. This implies that there is no significant variation among the accommodation and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Determine if the purpose of using the e-resources is contingent with respect to the age of the research scholars

Null hypothesis (H₀): There is no association between the age and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Alternative hypothesis (H₁): There is association between the age and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Table 6 Age and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars

Age	Purpose of using the e – resources N (%)						Total	χ^2 - test; df and LOS
	research and develop- ment	Publishing journal / book	studying	career develop- ment	all	other		
Less than 25 years	80 (18.0%)	11 (2.5%)	19 (4.3%)	9 (2.0%)	100 (22.5%)	0 (.0%)	219 (49.2%)	17.715; 15 P>0.05
Between 26 to 30 years	61 (13.7%)	19 (4.3%)	8 (1.8%)	3 (.7%)	102 (22.9%)	1 (.2%)	194 (43.6%)	
Between 31 to 40 years	12 (2.7%)	2 (.4%)	3 (.7%)	0 (.0%)	10 (2.2%)	0 (.0%)	27 (6.1%)	
Above 41 years	1 (.2%)	1 (.2%)	1 (.2%)	0 (.0%)	2 (.4%)	0 (.0%)	5 (1.1%)	
Total	154 (34.6%)	33 (7.4%)	31 (7.0%)	12 (2.7%)	214 (48.1%)	1 (.2%)	445 (100%)	

LOS - Level of significance – 5% Level

Table 6 shows that, 214 (48.1%) respondents are using the e-resources for all purposes whereas 154 (34.6%) are using the e-resources only for the research and development purposes. Out of 219 (49.2%) scholars who are less than 25 years of age, 100 (22.5%) are using e-resources for all purposes. From the result, it is observed that scholars who are less than 25 years of age are using e-resources more than the other categories. The Chi-Square test for independence is significant at 5% level of significance. The value of χ^2 is 17.715 and the degree of freedom (df) is 15. The value of p shows statistically significant (P>0.05). So, the null hypothesis is accepted. Alternative hypothesis is not accepted. This implies that there is no significant variation among the age and purpose of using the e-resources with respect to research scholars.

Determine if the purpose of using the e-resources is contingent with respect to the year of pursuing the research study with regard to the research scholars

Null hypothesis (H₀): There is no association between the years of pursuing research study and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Alternative hypothesis (H₁): There is association between the years of pursuing research study and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

Table 7 Years of pursuing research study and purpose of using the e-resources with respect to research scholars

Years of pursuing research study	Purpose of using the e – resources						Total	χ^2 - test; df and LOS
	research and development	Publishing journal / book	Study-ing	career development	all	other		
Less than one year	50 (11.2%)	4 (.9%)	16 (3.6%)	6 (1.3%)	68 (15.3%)	0 (.0%)	144 (32.4%)	20.439;15 P>0.05
1 to 3 years	84 (18.9%)	21 (4.7%)	15 (3.4%)	5 (1.1%)	121 (27.2%)	1 (.2%)	247 (55.5%)	
4 to 6 years	18 (4.0%)	8 (1.8%)	0 (.0%)	1 (.2%)	23 (5.2%)	0 (.0%)	50 (11.2%)	
Above 6 years	2 (.4%)	0 (.0%)	0 (.0%)	0 (.0%)	2 (.4%)	0 (.0%)	4 (.9%)	
Total	154 (34.6%)	33 (7.4%)	31 (7.0%)	12 (2.7%)	214 (48.1%)	1 (.2%)	445 (100%)	

LOS - Level of significance – 5% Level

Table 7 shows that, 214 (48.1%) respondents are using e-resources for all purposes whereas 154 (34.6%) are using e-resources for the research and development purpose. Out of 247 (55.5%) scholars who are 1 to 3 years of pursuing research study, 121 (27.2%) are using e-resources for all purposes. From the result, it is observed that scholars who are 1 to 3 years of pursuing research study are using e-resources more than the other categories. The Chi-Square test for independence is significant at 5% level of significance. The value of χ^2 is 20.439 and the degree of freedom (df) is 15. The value of p shows statistically significant (P>0.05). So, the null hypothesis is accepted. Alternative hypothesis is not accepted. This implies that there is no significant variation among the years of pursuing research study and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE STUDY

The Purpose of using the e-resources

- Out of 445 (100%) scholars, 214 (48.1%) are using the e-resources for all purposes. 154 (34.6%) are using for research and development. 33 (7.4%) are using the same for publishing journals/books. 31 (7%) are using e-resources for the purpose of their studies.

12 (2.7%) are using for career development and the remaining 1(.2%) uses e-resources for other purposes. Among the scholars and different departments 174 (39.1%) scholars belong to Science department. 103 (23.1%) are from Applied Science and Technology. 97 (21.8%) are from Arts. 53 (11.9%) are from Education and Management and 18 (4%) are from Social Science department. The scholars of Science department are using e-resources more than the other scholars. The Chi-Square test shows that there is no relationship between the department and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

- The study shows the gender wise difference with regard to the utility of e-resources. Among the total scholars 233 (52.4%) are female and 212 (47.6%) are male. Female scholars are using e-resources more than the male scholars. The chi-square test shows that there is no relationship between the gender and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.
- There are 265 (59.67%) Ph.D. scholars and 180(40.4%) M.Phil scholars. The data show that Ph.D. scholars are using the e- resources more than the M.Phil scholars. According to the chi- square test there is no relationship between the academic courses being pursued and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.
- The study shows the association between the scholars of different accommodations. There are 243 (54.6%) hostel scholars and 202 (45.4%) day scholars. Hostel scholars are using e-resources more than the day scholars. This is due to the availability of time and other facilities like laboratories, departments and the easy access to web-resources. The chi-square test shows that there is no relationship between the accommodation and purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.
- The study shows the relationship between the age and the usage of e- resources. From the data we find that 219 (49.2%) scholars are less than 25 years. 194 (43.6%) are between 26 to 30 years of age. 27 (6.1%) are between 31 to 40 years and 5 (1.1%) are above 41 years. From the study we know that the scholars who are less than 25 years of age are using e- resources more than others. The quickness in working on the e-resources and the exposure on different kinds of e-resources are the reasons for this. According to the chi-square test there is no relationship between the age and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.
- The scholars with regard to the different durations of pursuing the research study vary in using the e- resources. Among the scholars 247 (55.5%) are pursuing their study between 1 to 3 years. 144 (32.4%) are below one year. 50 (11.2%) are between 4 to 6 years. The

data show that the scholars of 1- 3 years of pursuing the research study are using the e-resources more than the other scholars. According to the chi-square test there is no relationship between the years of pursuing research study and the purpose of using the e-resources with respect to the research scholars.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Out of 445 (100%) research scholars, maximum of the respondents of Bharathiar University use the computer and e-resources properly. 174 (39.1%) scholars are from Science department. 103 (23.1%) scholars are from Applied Science and Technology. 97 (21.8%) scholars are from Arts. 53 (11.9%) scholars are from Education and Management. 18 (4%) scholars are Social Science.
- 214 (48.1%) research scholars are using the e-resources for all purposes. Especially, 154 (34.6%) scholars use the e-resources for research and development.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

The study reveals that most of the research scholars of different departments are using e-resources with different purposes. Maximum scholars are using e-resources for research & development and for all purposes. Maximum scholars are using the e-resources for getting information and for making the review of related literature. The modern world is a scientific and technological world and today it is everybody' concerned. The study shows that the knowledge utilization of internet based electronic resources has created a great importance upon the users of the research scholars of Bharathiar University in their research activities and their academic development works. The rapid developments in ICT have facilitated the divergence and convergence of new electronic resources and devices. The study discussed in a variety of ways and forms in various kinds of electronic resources. Most of the research scholars are utilizing e-resources with their research and development. Research scholars expect training, and awareness programs. The scholars are interested to have this kind of studies which will provide good exposure to them.

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