

An Analytical Study on Information Resources and Services of Dr. K.S. Janakarathnam Memorial Library, Gobi Arts & Science College, Erode, Tamil Nadu

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The research explores the scope of information resources and services offered by the Dr. K.S. Janakarathnam Memorial Library at Gobi Arts & Science College in Erode, Tamil Nadu. A total of 670 participants, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, research scholars, and faculty members were surveyed using a structured questionnaire to evaluate their engagement with the physical and digital resources of the library. The results showed that users from all groups actively utilized electronic resources, with growing awareness contributing positively to their adoption. Most users accessed these digital materials from the College Computer Centre and hostels. However, despite this trend, only a limited selection of e-resources was frequently used, and many individuals still relied on external facilities such as cyber cafes to access them. Several challenges were identified that hinder optimal use of e-resources, including limited computer skills, low levels of information literacy, a shortage of computer systems, and slow internet connectivity. Direct challenges included inadequate browsing skills, restricted internet bandwidth, and underdeveloped ICT infrastructure. Indirect factors such as lack of home internet access, absence of online academic requirements, low motivation, and the unavailability of personal devices like laptops also played a role in limiting usage. Statistical analysis showed no major differences in user opinions across these issues. The study also highlighted the infrequent use of e-resources, pointing to the need for significant improvements to increase accessibility and adoption. The library itself is fully automated, using barcode technology and proprietary software called “NOOLAGAM.” Its collection includes 1,10,000 books, 6,050 bound volumes of journals, 7,250 digital resources (CDs/DVDs), and subscriptions to 138 national and international journals, along with databases such as INFLIBNET and NDLI. The browsing centre of the library features 40 computers and offers free internet access. An important trend identified was the gradual transition from printed to digital content, evidenced by the declining demand for physical journals and the growing preference for e-journals. The study concludes by addressing the current limitations and offering recommendations to improve the library services in order to better meet the academic and research needs of its users.

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