

**INFORMATION SOURCES AND SERVICES
OFFERING TO VIT UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE
AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, RESEARCH
SCHOLARS AND FACULTIES: A CASE STUDY**

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ABSTRACT

In the 21st century, most of the library resources are being made available in electronic formats such as e-journals, e-books, e databases, etc. Libraries are moving from print to e-resources either subscribing individually or through consortia. University libraries in VIT University subscribes to a number of electronic journals to satisfy the information needs of its users. In a university, library is playing a most significance role towards the research ongoing to the university. Off course the selection of documents in the library like books, journals and information sources is more complicated in the age of e-resources. University library is supposed to fulfill the need of its various types user like undergraduate, postgraduate, researcher, faculty and all. This article is discussing about the sources and service offered by both libraries to its researcher, students and faculties.

Keywords: *Information sources and services, e-resources, e-database, collection in VIT University*

I. INTRODUCTION

Today the libraries have transformed into digital and virtual libraries. Traditional books, journals and magazines have changed into e-books, e-journals, and e-magazines. There has been a considerable increase in awareness among the users about the library e – resources and e-services. This has increased the global dissemination of information. The University library plays an important role in the overall development of students. Undergraduate and postgraduate students often visit the library for their course books and to consult previous question papers and syllabi, to borrow books and other material, and to use other services. With the application of information technology and the advent of Web-based services, contents are now available to students on their desktop. Electronic resources are easily accessible in remote areas. Convenience of accessing articles any time from their desktop computer (Palmer and Sandler 2003¹; Woodward et al. 1997²; Rusch-Feja and Siebeky 1999³; Maughan 1999⁴; Tenner and Yang 1999⁵; Hiller 2002⁶; Nicolaidis 2001⁷; Chu 1998⁸; Bishop 1999⁹);

ease of skimming and searching, the possibility of downloading or printing the desired document or segment, the currency of information, the speed of access, and the ability to send articles to their colleagues instantly (Palmer and Sandler 2003¹; Rusch-Feja and Siebeky 1999³; Sathe, Grady, and Giuse 2002¹⁰; Entlich et al. 1996¹¹; Chu 1998⁸) are the few advantages experienced by the users in the use of e-resources. The progress in information technology has offered today's information seekers different opportunities to access to information resources in an increasing array and format. An academic library is expected to provide materials for courses, research projects and institutional academic activity to satisfy the needs of the well defined specialized clientele like faculty, students, researchers, administrators. Both faculty and researchers use the electronic resources and most readily adopt them since the e-resources are perceived as convenient, relevant, and time saving to their natural workflow.

II. VIT UNIVERSITY

The foundation stone for the Vellore Engineering College (VEC) was laid on July 5th 1985. The college was affiliated to Madras University and bagged many with the efforts of a farsighted management and dedicated staff. Students from not only different states, but also from different countries started joining VEC. VEC also got accreditation from NBA for six of its courses and the ISO 9002 certification by DNV Holland. VEC was get the Deemed University status in June 2001 and VEC became Vellore Institute of Technology. Later, by a statute of the government VIT Deemed University became VIT University. With the main campus at Vellore, the University has an off-campus centre at Chennai as well. VIT Chennai was started in 2010 and is developing to be the right place for Gen Y in this digital era.

VIT University has catapulted into a world renowned institution with its world class infrastructure, dedicated staff and brilliant students. VIT has been ranked number one among the private technical institutions in India for two consecutive years and has been consistently placed within the first top ten institutions as per the AC Nielson Marg Survey report.

The engineering college that started with a clutch of 180 students in 1984 has developed into a university with two campuses. More than 31,000 students are enrolled in 57 undergraduate and graduate programmes with nearly 16,000 residing on the campus with nearly 1/3rd of them are women. The University attracts students and professors from different parts of the world and houses more than 1000 international students on campus. VIT University is a highly reputed education provider with experienced faculty and state-of-the-art infrastructure. For the past two years, VIT University has been ranked top private engineering institution in India. ISO Certification from Holland, International accreditation from the United Kingdom and the USA, and the highest accreditation grade from the Government of India reflect the University's penchant for excellence on all fronts. NAAC has re-accredited VIT University with an 'A' grade. A 360-acre eco-friendly campus with over 50.83 lakh sq.ft. built-up space at Vellore. A 170 acre eco-friendly second campus at Chennai. Over 1500 faculty and 1500 non-teaching staff are working. VIT has been accredited by TCS, Wipro and Cognizant for academic

collaboration and placements. Very recently, MHRD has released the Indian Ranking list [NIRF] and in that VIT has taken the No. 1 position in Engineering, among the private institutions in India [overall ranking – 13]. VITBS has been placed in No. 5 position in Management among the private institutions in India, [overall ranking – 17].

VIT’s programmes are developed to empower students with skills that make learning more rewarding. Different academic and research programmes are offered at 11 different schools in disciplines including Engineering, Science and Management. VIT’s memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with various international universities are its abiding strength. They provide for enriching exchanges of students and faculty and encourage joint research projects for the mutual benefit of the universities. The campus has a cosmopolitan atmosphere with students from all corners of the globe. Experienced and learned teachers are strongly encouraged to nurture the students. The global standards set at VIT in the field of teaching and researches spur us on in our relentless pursuit of excellence.

In addition to teaching, the faculty members are required to involve themselves in research activities. The university provides the necessary financial support for starting research projects. A total of 8,500 research articles have been published in journals indexed by Scopus. About 175 patents have been filed, of which 16 have been awarded till date. Research centers are also part of the schools, encouraging interdepartmental collaboration and opportunity for students to participate in exciting research projects. The University is headed by its founder and Chancellor, Dr. G. Viswanathan, a former Parliamentarian and Minister in the Tamil Nadu Government. In recognition of his service to India in offering world class education, he was conferred an honorary doctorate by the West Virginia University, USA.

III. VIT LIBRARY(VELLORE AND CHENNAI CAMPUSES)

The central libraries at both the campuses of VIT (Vellore and Chennai) have a rich collection of books, back volumes as well as journals, available both as paper books and in e-mode. The Library contributes to the fulfilment of the University's mission by:

- Selecting, acquiring, organising, maintaining and making accessible a collection of printed and non-printed, primary and secondary materials that will support the educational, research and public service programmes of both students and the faculty.
- Responding to the varying needs of the academic community by involving the faculty, the students and the administration in the development and periodic assessment of the library services and resources.
- Providing library users with point-of-use instruction, personal assistance in conducting literature research and other reference services.
- Providing an environment conducive to the optimum use of library materials and an appropriate schedule of hours of service and professional assistance.

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- Participating in overall computing resources plan and providing for full library utilization of automation technology, physical facilities and equipment adequate to process, catalogue and store the materials.
- Enhancing the library's resources and services through cooperative relationship with other libraries and agencies.

Vision Statement

VIT Library's vision is to be a world class library right at the heart of VIT University Education system, learning and research success and a source of wide institutional pride and international recognition and provide world knowledge. The end users empowered by accessible, innovative, creative and responsive library services supported by an excellent range of high quality of and resources and committed professional staff team members.

Mission Statement

VIT Library's mission is to create inspiring education, learning and best research environments which are gateways to right and relevant of any resources and supported by an enabling and library users focused service culture in which all library users and staff can excel. The end users have seamless and timely access to wide range of high quality of information resources.

Strategic development themes

Digital Learning Commons

- To accelerate a digital-first approach driving forwarded “anytime, anywhere’s access to our subscribed content and institutional repository content. –Remote access facility for our end users.
- To ensure the digital library content is simple to use that its design is user-led and that is maximizes ease of content discovery and enhances services for library members by single search concept.
- To introduce e-learning environment in our Library with other open source e-learning contents, online courses such MIT etc.(MOOC Courses, NPTEL etc)
- Create awareness and benefit of e-book reading, slowly migrate print to digital environment step by step. Student Study and Skills:
- To provide access facility to the right resources, expert skills and advice and flexible reading environments designed to enable all students to achieve their full potential.
- To adopt a full life cycle approach to library and information service planning to support the students and research scholars the complete period in our university.

Research and Teaching Support

- To provide research library services that match with international standing as a Central Library is research power house and to achieve effective partnership with other international libraries.

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- To facilitate timely access to relevant content and maintain the collection of distinction for future students.

Membership

- All students, faculty members and staff of the institute are members of the library.

Institutional Membership

- American Library, Chennai
- British Council Library, Chennai

Library Networks Membership

- DELNET, Delhi
- INFLIBNET, Ahmadabad
- MALIBNET, Chennai

IT Infrastructure

- State of Art of Infrastructure
- LIBSYS Library Management System
- RFID self check-in book drop and Check-out kiosk
- 120 seater Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (Thin Client) Powered by IBM, CITRIX and N-Computing for accessing of Electronic Resources
- DELL Poweredge 420 hosts LIBSYS
- DELL Poweredge 520 Server hosts Digital Institutional Repository.
- Touch Screen KIOSK for Library Information
- Surface Table for discussions
- Video Conferencing facility
- Wifi Facility
- CCTV Surveillance System

E-Journals

(13,316+)

ACM, ACS, AIR Online, ASCE, ASME, ASTM Journals and Standards, British Standard Euro Codes, EBSCO Business Source Complete, EMERALD Management Journals, Engineering Refrex, IBM Journal of Research & Development, IEL (IEEE&IEE), Indian Standards, Journal on Excellence in College Teaching, Lexis Nexis,

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Manupatra, MathSciNet, Nature Publishing Group Journals, ProQuest-ABI / Inform Complete, SAE Tech. Papers, SAGE Online Journals, Science Direct, Scifinder Scholar, Scopus, Springer link Journals and ProQuest-Dissertation & Theses (ETD) Part A & B.

E-Books (1,19,792)

- Engineering Village-Referex subject collections e-books
- E-brary ebook collection

E-Magazines (15)

- Magzter

Institutional Repository

VIT Library has created an Institutional Repository containing the Full theses & Full publications under the link D space ETD (Electronic Theses & Dissertations). This URL is available under Library e – resources. With the help of the e – resources Central library in both campuses are in a position to render the services to its users which they have not able to provide with its print journals.

TABLE 1

PRINTED MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN VIT

Resources	Vellore Campus	Chennai Campus
Total Number of Books	220337	47664
Total Number of Back Volumes	28096	616
Total No. of Printed Journals & Magazines (National / International)	408	183
Compact Discs	15765	3536
Number of Newspapers(Languages)	20(6)	12(6)

IV.PERIYAR EVR CENTRAL LIBRARY, VELLORE

The Central library in Vellore campus has been built to International standards, spreads over to ground plus six floors with an area of 7770 sq. m. It is centrally air-conditioned, well-protected with fire alarm, CCTV and 3M-book security system. It has specialized collections of Books, Journals & other resources in Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Biotechnology, Humanities, Social Sciences and Management. The Collection replete with 2,48,433 Documents, 2,20,337 Volumes of Books 28,096 Back volumes, 14,887 CDs\ DVDs. 561 video cassettes and 317 Audio Cassettes. Central library subscribes to 408 National and International journals

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and access to 1,33,123 + e-resources. The Library has a Video Conferencing facility and NPTEL video courses in the different fields of education. Apart from central library each school having a separate library with good collection. Central Library has a video conferencing facility and also provides classroom teaching through EDUSAT Programmes in the different fields of Engineering. As a part of digital information, ACADO a digital repository provides course materials and lectures of reputed professors accessible through online by the user community of the university.

Library working hours

Monday through Friday: 7:30 – 0:30 hrs

Weekends /Holidays: 9:00 – 20:00 hrs

Transaction

Monday through Friday: 8:00 – 20:00 hrs

Weekends / Holidays: 9:00 – 17:30 hrs

Digital Library

Monday through Friday: 8.00 - 24.00 hrs

Weekends /Holidays: 9:00 – 20:00 hrs

The Central Library in both campuses functions on all 365 Days.

V.CENTRAL LIBRARY, CHENNAI

The Central library in Chennai has been established with state-of-art infrastructure to the International Standards, spreads over to four floors with built-in area of 25000 sq.ft. It has provided with centrally air-conditioning system, well-protected with fire alarm, CCTV, Flap Barrier and RFID book security system. Similar to VIT Vellore campus, reference and textbooks of national and international authors, International and national Journals & Non-book materials are available to cater various fields of Basic Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Law, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Library working hours

Monday through Friday: 7:30 – 24:00 hrs

Weekends /Holidays: 7:30 – 21:00 hrs

Transaction

Monday through Friday: 8:00 – 20:00 hrs

Weekends / Holidays: 8:00 – 20:00 hrs

Digital Library

Monday through Friday: 8.00 - 20.00 hrs

Weekends /Holidays: 8:00 – 20:00 hrs

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Both Library offers the following unique services:

- Circulation Service through RFID
- Reference Service
- Web OPAC (On-line Public Access Catalogue)
- Study Book Service
- Book Bank (SC/ST&VITAA)
- Resource Sharing (Inter Library Loan)
- Multimedia Resource Service
- On-line Databases
- NPTEL e-Learning Facility
- User Education Program
- Tele / Video Conferencing.

IT Infrastructure

- State of Art Infrastructure
- LIBSYS Library Management System
- 120 seater Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (Thin Client) Powered by IBM, CITRIX and N-Computing for accessing of Electronic Resources
- DELL Powerededge 420 hosts LIBSYS
- DELL Powerededge 520 Server hosts Digital Institutional Repository.
- Touch Screen KIOSK for Library Information
- Surface Table for discussions
- Video Conferencing facility
- Wifi Facility
- CCTV Surveillance System

VI. CONCLUSION

Traditional print journals are being replaced by electronic journals with benefits for libraries and users apparent in many ways. Users can access, download and print out papers quite easily. Therefore the usage of e – journals has increased. Further there has been a considerable increase in awareness among the users about the library e – resources and e-services. Use of electronic journals improves the quality of research by providing enriched contents on different subjects of study. Librarians have numerous roles to play in the growing digital environment, with the move towards open access prompting a profound change in the way university libraries manage their scholarly communications – not least in how they use online repositories for publishing and opening up access to research. University Libraries noted that they are critically examining where faculties already address some information literacy competencies and whether students come to university equipped with

certain skills. In short, both libraries in VIT University need more focus on various services related to users, so that users can do their research in a better way and performance will be uplifted. Also central libraries need to re-engineer their information sources selection policy, so that the selection of information source and types will be better than ever.

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