

**USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES IN
THE PRIVATE TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION LIBRARIES IN SRI LANKA**

**(A study of selected institutions affiliated to foreign universities in
Colombo District)**

R.A.W. R. Rajasinghe

FGS/L/MSSC/2005/09

ප්‍රවේශ අංකය:	805
වර්ග අංකය:	

**This dissertation is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement of the
Master of Social Sciences in Library and Information Science Degree of the
Faculty of Social Sciences University of Kelaniya**

March 2012

ABSTRACT

Electronic Information Resources (EIR) have become an eminent source of knowledge in modern society. Libraries around the world embrace this new form in order to provide better services to their user communities. In the past few decades, private tertiary educational institution libraries in Sri Lanka have played a significant role in initiating and providing access to EIR through affiliated foreign universities. The purpose of this paper is to determine the usage of electronic information resources of undergraduates in the Private Tertiary Educational Institution Libraries in Sri Lanka.

Five specific objectives were formulated viz. to investigate the availability of EIR in private tertiary educational institution libraries, to discover the demand for EIR compared to the printed material, to study the availability of infrastructure and other equipment and to discover the attitude and awareness of the library staff and students for a better retrieval of information. The data analysis was done based on two research questions in par with the above specific objectives. Stratified Random sampling method was administered in order to determine the sample size.

The paper arrives at the conclusion that online electronic information resources are being well used compared to offline resources such as in-house databases, CD-Rom collections mainly for academic purposes. Furthermore though the majority agreed that electronic information resources are very useful, in contradiction most of them preferred printed material due to easiness, eye strain, non-requirement of additional equipment, etc.

Moreover the study highlights the issues and constraints faced by the users in accessing EIR such as limited access to full-text, lack of training, unsatisfied downloading speeds and provides constructive suggestions for further improvement of use of EIR based on responses from questionnaires and structured interviews as research instruments.

This study is restricted exclusively to Electronic Information Resources (EIR) as type of material and undergraduates at the tertiary educational institutions affiliated to foreign universities situated in the Colombo district as the population.

Key words: Electronic Information Resources, Tertiary Education, Private Tertiary Educational Institution libraries