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A STUDY ON THE EXTENT OF USAGE OF THE E-LIBRARY, FACULTY OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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With the revision of the undergraduate curriculum of the Faculty of Medicine, the E-Library was established adjacent to the Medical Library in 2005. It provides the facility only for the academic community (academic staff and undergraduates) of the Faculty of Medicine. The objectives of the study were to investigate the extent of usage of the E-library and to identify lapses in the existing services.

A questionnaire was used to survey the study population consisting of 1171 undergraduates and the entire academic staff (58) of the Faculty of Medicine. The percentage of respondents in the category of undergraduates was 98 % and that of academic staff was 1.8%. The latter was excluded due to the inadequate response rate.

51% of undergraduates were neutral about the importance of the E-library as a resource centre. However, 52% of undergraduates used the E-library very often. 53% used the E-library whenever time permitted. The time of usage regarding week days and weekends depended on the seniority of the batch. 60% of undergraduates were neutral about their satisfaction of the E-library. Cited reasons for their reservations were slow and old computers and operating systems. 74% preferred the Windows operating system to Linux. 43% of undergraduates used the E-library for e-mails, 61% to surf the Internet and 45% to prepare project reports.

Facilities in the E-library should be improved according to the findings above.

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