

## **Exploring the Use and Knowledge of E-Learning Tools among Library and Information Science Professionals**

**<sup>1</sup>S.V Kavitha\* and <sup>2</sup>Dr. P. Balasubramanian**

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### **Author's Affiliation:**

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli-627 012, Tamil Nadu, India.

E-mail: [svkavitha36@gmail.com](mailto:svkavitha36@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>University Librarian & Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli-627 012, Tamil Nadu, India.

E-mail: [bala\\_phd2010@yahoo.com](mailto:bala_phd2010@yahoo.com)

**\*Corresponding Author:** S.V Kavitha, Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli-627 012, Tamil Nadu, India.

E-mail: [svkavitha36@gmail.com](mailto:svkavitha36@gmail.com)

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper is discussed about Exploring the Use and Knowledge of E-Learning Tools among Library and Information Science Professionals in South Tamil Nadu. The purpose of the study was to find out the library professionals were getting familiarity of E-learning Tools and examined E-learning facilities in their library activities. They are 140 questionnaire were distributed to library professionals out of which 123 were filled and returned to the Researcher. Among the 140, 98(70%) questionnaires were distributed to the Male Professionals and 42 (30%) questionnaires to the Female Professionals. Among the 123 professional, 71(57.72%) professionals are stated EdTeck Services and 68 (55.28%) professionals are mentioned ComOps is familiar.*

**KEYWORDS:** E-Learning, Tools for E-Learning, Software for E-Learning

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

E-learning, blended learning, online learning distance learning have been used interchangeably and the lines of demarcation among them are blurred. The origins of e-learning, web-based education can be traced back to distance learning where participating learners would receive materials to pursue an educational or training course. E-Learning is a part and parcel of life of a modern library Systems. In the good old day's librarian are treated as resource supply people who are sharing the knowledge to the needy people. But today the librarian is developing the digital library in their own organization for their own people and for others. They have developed the digital library of their own and collect the different resources through the digital format and store it in their digital library. To develop this programming knowledge and computer skill is highly required and today the librarians are now they upgraded themselves. With the e-learning in school education and the popularization and application of enterprise training, the e-learning is considered to be a computer, multimedia and network-based, teacher-led and

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student-centered teaching mode of the new and also in practical applications, e-learning also refers to the information technology environment in the teaching and learning behavior.

## 2. E-LEARNING

E-learning is defined as instruction delivered on a computer via internet or CD-ROM. It can be self-paced or instructor-led and includes media in the form of text, streaming video, and audio and builds user knowledge to improve organisational functioning. E-learning commonly refers to training delivered electronically in an organisational setting while online learning is used to differentiate courses delivered via the internet in educational settings. E-learning is an approach to facilitate and enhance learning through both computer and communications technology. Such devices can include personal computers, CD-ROMs, digital television, PDAs and mobile phones. Communication technology enables the use of the internet, e-mail, discussion forums, collaborative software, and team learning systems.

## 3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Sharif, U., Asad, I. H., & Ali, N. (2024) et al.** – *Promotion of E-Learning among Students: Role of University Libraries*- This study examines how university libraries play a significant role in promoting e-learning among students, focusing on the challenges and strategies for enhancing access to digital resources. It highlights the role of libraries in facilitating online learning, offering digital resources, and providing training in digital literacy. The paper also discusses the challenges faced by libraries, such as limited infrastructure and lack of awareness among students.

**Shahzad, K., Khan, S. A., Javed, Y., & Iqbal, A. (2023) et al.** – *E-learning for Continuing Professional Development of University Librarians: A Systematic Review*- A systematic review exploring the use of e-learning for the professional development of university librarians. It highlights how online learning programs, webinars, and virtual workshops help librarians keep up with new trends and skills. The review also discusses barriers like limited time, low motivation, and accessibility issues that hinder participation in e-learning programs.

**Sivankalai, S. (2021) et al.** – *Academic Libraries Support E-Learning and Lifelong Learning: A Case Study* - This case study illustrates how academic libraries support e-learning and lifelong learning. It emphasizes the role of libraries in offering online resources, creating learning management systems, and supporting self-paced learning. The study underscores the growing importance of libraries in promoting lifelong learning, helping students and faculty adapt to changing educational needs.

**A. Vinoth Sermarajan & P. Balasubramanian (2024) et al.** - *User Perception of E-books for Competitive Exams in University Libraries: A Case Study of Tamil Nadu*- this study focused on the user perception of e-books in university libraries in Tamil Nadu, specifically for students preparing for competitive exams. Their findings highlight that students find e-books to be an accessible and cost-effective resource, but there are concerns regarding the ease of use and availability of relevant content. The study also emphasized the importance of library services adapting to technological changes to meet evolving user needs. Although this study focused on university libraries, its findings are relevant for public libraries as well, particularly in the context of user expectations for digital resources and technology integration. It underscores the need for public libraries to assess and improve digital services as part of their performance evaluation.

**Lau, K. S., Lo, P., Chiu, D. K., Ho, K. K., Jiang, T., Zhou, Q., ... & Allard, B. (2020) et al.** – *Library and Learning Experiences Turned Mobile: A Comparative Study Between LIS and Non-LIS Students* - This comparative study analyzes how LIS (Library and Information Science) students and non-LIS students engage with library services through mobile platforms. The research found that mobile technologies enhance students' learning experiences, with LIS students being more likely to utilize mobile resources.

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The study suggests libraries should ensure their services are mobile-friendly to improve accessibility for all students.

**Yebowaah, F. A., & Plockey, F. D. D. (2017) et al.** – *Awareness and Use of Electronic Resources in University Libraries: A Case Study of University for Development Studies Library*- This study investigates the level of awareness and use of electronic resources at the University for Development Studies Library. It finds that while students are generally aware of e-resources, their usage is low due to factors like poor internet access, insufficient training, and lack of promotion. The paper recommends improving digital infrastructure and providing better training to increase the utilization of electronic resources.

### **4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objectives of the study are:

- To assess the strength of engineering Colleges in South Tamil Nadu
- To identify the frequency of search for E-Learning tools
- To assess various methods of E-Learning tools
- To find out awareness in E-Learning Educational Blogs

### **5. METHODOLOGY**

The main aim this study is to find out the knowledge and awareness on E-learning Tools by Library and Information Science Professionals Engineering colleges in the South Tamil Nadu. The South Tamil Nadu consists of nine districts like, Dindigul, Theni, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Ramnad and Sivagangai. The 140 questionnaires were distributed among the library professionals of 118 engineering colleges in south Tamil Nadu. Among the 140, 123 questionnaires were filled, and returned for use by the professionals and remaining not replied. The response rate is 82%. Based on the collected data some statistical tools like simple percentage and WAM were used.

### **6. POPULATION OF THE STUDY**

The researcher collected the data by using the questionnaires among the library professionals in the higher educational institutions in South Tamil Nadu which covers ten districts like Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Tenkasi, Theni, Tutucorin, Tirunelveli and Virudhunagar. The study covered only library professionals working in Higher Educational Institutions in South Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu which covers all the 'Engineering & Technology' institutions. This study did not cover the other higher educational institutions like Universities, Deemed to be Universities, Arts & Science Colleges, Polytechnic Colleges, Nursing Colleges, and Education Colleges etc., due to the time constraints, cost and others.

### **7. ANALYSIS OF DATA AND INTERPRETATION**

#### **7.1. District wise Engineering Colleges in South Tamil Nadu**

This attempt is to find out familiarity and knowledge on E-Learning Tools by Library and Information Science Professionals in various Engineering colleges in the south Tamil Nadu. The South Tamil Nadu which covers ten districts like Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Tenkasi, Theni, Tutucorin, Tirunelveli and Virudhunagar and the table 1 shows availability of the 'Engineering & Technology' institutions.

**Table 1: District wise Engineering Colleges in South Tamil Nadu**

Sl. No.	District	No. of Institutions	Percentage
1	Dindigul	12	11.01
2	Kanyakumari	28	25.69
3	Madurai	11	10.09
4	Ramanathapuram	4	3.67
5	Sivagangai	8	7.34
6	Tenkasi	5	4.59
7	Theni	4	3.67
8	Tirunelveli	13	11.93
9	Tutucorin	11	10.09
10	Virudhunagar	13	11.93
	<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table 1 shows that the 109 engineering colleges are available in south Tamil Nadu. In south Tamil Nadu, ten districts have the Engineering colleges as mentioned above. Among the ten district maximum of the Engineering colleges situated in Kanyakumari district. The four districts i.e Dindigul, Madurai, Tuticorin and Virudhunagar have more than 10 colleges and rests of the districts have below 10 colleges.

### 7.2. Location wise Distribution of the Engineering Colleges

This study is an attempt to identify the location of the engineering Colleges in South Tamil Nadu which were categorized as 'Urban, Semi Urban and Rural which is shown table 2.

**Table 2: Location wise Distribution of the Engineering Colleges**

Sl. No.	Institution Location	Number of Colleges	%
1	Urban	52	47.71
2	Semi-Urban	32	29.36
3	Rural	25	22.94
	<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.00</b>

From the table 2 depicts the location wise distribution of the Engineering College Libraries in South Tamil Nadu. Among the 109 colleges, majority of 52 (47.71 Percentage) of them are located urban area, 32(29.36 Percentage) of them are from semi urban area, while remaining 25 (22.94 Percentage) of them are from rural area.

### 7.3. Distribution of the Questionnaires to the Professionals

The distribution of the questionnaires to the library professionals of all the engineering Colleges in South Tamil and it is shown in table 3.

**Table 3: Distribution of the Questionnaires to the Professionals**

Sl. No.	Respondent	Questionnaires Distributed	%	Questionnaires Replied	%	Questionnaires Not Replied	%
1	Male	98	70.00	87	62.14	11	7.86
2	Female	42	30.00	36	25.71	6	4.29
	<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>87.86</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12.14</b>

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As per above table 3, 140 questionnaires were distributed to LIS Professionals in various Engineering colleges in the south Tamil Nadu. Among the 140, 98(70%) questionnaires were distributed to the Male Professionals and 42 (30%) questionnaires to the Female Professionals. Among that respondent 87(62.14%) of the Male professionals were replied and 36 (25.71%) of the Female Professionals were replied. It is concluded that out 140 questionnaires, 123 (87.86%) were replied and 17 (12.14%) not replied by the Professionals.

### 7.4. Frequency of Search for E-Learning tools

The frequency of Search for the E-Learning tools by the library professionals in engineering Colleges in South Tamil Nadu were analyzed with the gender and it is shown in the table 4.

**Table 4: Frequency of Search for E-Learning tools**

Sl. No	Search Time	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
1	Daily	43	34.96	17	13.82	60	48.78
2	Weekly twice	21	17.07	8	6.50	29	23.58
3	Weekly once	13	10.57	5	4.07	18	14.63
4	Fortnightly	7	5.69	4	3.25	11	8.94
5	Monthly	3	2.44	2	1.63	5	4.07
	<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>70.73</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29.27</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table 4 shows that frequency of search for E-learning tools by the professional in various Engineering colleges in the south Tamil Nadu. Among the 123 professionals, 43(34.96%) Male professionals and 17(13.82%) Female Professionals were used the E-Learning tools in daily. And also, 21(17.07%) Male respondents and 8 (6.50%) Female Professionals were used the E-Learning in weekly twice. It is pointed out that maximum of the professionals60 (48.78%) were used the E-Learning daily.

### 7.5. Distribution of Various Methods While Learning E-Learning Tools

The Distribution of Various Methods While Learning E-Learning Tools by the library professionals in engineering Colleges in South Tamil Nadu were analyzed with the gender and it is shown in the table 5.

**Table 5: Distribution of Various Methods While Learning E-Learning Tools**

Sl. No	Method of Learning	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
1	Orientation programs by Librarian	47	38.21	17	13.82	64	52.03
2	With the help of friend or Colleague	14	11.38	9	7.32	23	18.70
3	Own learning	18	14.63	7	5.69	25	20.33
4	Trial and error	8	6.50	3	2.44	11	8.94
	<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>70.73</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29.27</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table 5 shows the various methods of learning while using the E-learning mentioned by the professionals in various Engineering colleges in the south Tamil Nadu. Among the 123 Professionals, 47(38.21%) Male professionals and 17 (13.82%) Female professionals were indicated the Orientation program organized by Librarian was one of the methods of learning for using the E-learning tools. It is pointed out that the 11(8.94%) professionals were mentioned trial and error was the one of method of learning while accessing E-learning tools.

### 7.6. Awareness on e-Learning Educational Blogs by LIS Professionals

The Distribution of Awareness on e-Learning Educational Blogs by LIS Professionals in engineering Colleges in South Tamil Nadu were analyzed with the five point scale such as 'No Idea, Aware, Learning, Fair and Expert' gender and it is shown in the table 6.

**Table 6: Awareness on e-Learning Educational Blogs by LIS Professionals**

Sl. No	e-Learning Educational Blogs	No Idea	Aware	Learning	Fair	Expert	Total	WAM	Rank
1	Free Technology for Teachers	2(1.63)	11(8.94)	22(17.89)	25(20.33)	63(51.22)	123	4.106	3
2	E-Learning Queen	7(5.69)	10(8.13)	17(13.82)	42(34.15)	47(38.21)	123	3.91	6
3	Box of Tricks	3(2.44)	11(8.94)	12(9.76)	50(40.65)	47(38.21)	123	4.03	5
4	NCS-Tech	6(4.87)	7(5.69)	9(7.31)	49(39.83)	52(42.27)	123	4.089	4
5	The Rapid E-Learning Blog	13(10.57)	17(13.82)	22(17.89)	28(22.76)	43(34.96)	123	3.58	8
6	iLearn Technology	3(2.43)	8(6.50)	19(15.44)	31(25.20)	62(50.40)	123	4.146	2
7	Take an e-Learning Break	1(0.81)	6(4.88)	19(15.45)	44(35.77)	53(43.09)	123	4.154	1
8	Edgalaxy	7(5.69)	17(13.82)	32(26.02)	18(14.63)	49(39.84)	123	3.69	7
9	E-Clippings	1(0.81)	9(7.32)	21(17.07)	37(30.08)	55(44.72)	123	4.106	3
10	E-Learning Technology	2(1.63)	7(5.69)	23(18.70)	35(28.46)	56(45.53)	123	4.106	3

(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)

Table 6 shows the familiarities about E-Learning educational blogs by LIS Professionals in Engineering colleges of the South Tamil Nadu. Most of the professional are selected some e-learning educational blogs only. Among the 123 professional, 62(50.40%) professionals are stated iLearn Technology and 53(43.09%) professionals are mentioned Take an e-Learning Break is familiar. But based on the WAM ranking Take an e-Learning Break is the more familiarizes among LIS professionals.

### 7.7. Awareness on e-Learning Educational Blogs by LIS Professionals

The extent of Awareness on e-Learning Educational Blogs by LIS Professionals Vs gender wise has been analysed based on the responses and it is shown in the table.7.

Table 7: Awareness on e-Learning Educational Blogs by LIS Professionals

Sl. No.	Skills	Male			Female			Sig.
		M	SD	R	M	SD	R	
1	Free Technology for Teachers	3.86	1.519	9	3.72	1.632	7	0.884
2	E-Learning Queen	3.90	1.479	8	3.86	1.533	6	0.412
3	Box of Tricks	4.15	1.475	2	4.08	1.461	3	0.528
4	NCS-Tech	4.10	1.338	5	3.19	1.653	9	0.033
5	The Rapid E-Learning Blog	4.36	1.151	1	4.31	1.215	2	0.195
6	iLearn Technology	3.99	1.426	7	3.94	1.351	5	0.559
7	Take an e-Learning Break	4.14	1.259	3	3.97	1.483	4	0.590
8	Edgalaxy	4.13	1.328	4	4.33	1.171	1	0.908
9	E-Clippings	4.02	1.397	6	3.64	1.726	8	0.236
10	E-Learning Technology	3.86	1.519	9	3.72	1.632	7	0.238

It can be seen from Table 7 that the library professionals from Engineering & Technology were analysed gender wise. The Male professionals have given 'The Rapid E-Learning Blog' as the first priority. 'Box of Tricks' and 'Take an e-Learning Break' are the second and third preferences indicated by the Engineering & Technology library professionals. The least preference was given by them for 'Free Technology for Teachers'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 3.86 and 4.36. The deviation of opinion ranges between 1.151 and 1.519. The Female professionals have given 'Edgalaxy' the first priority. 'The Rapid E-Learning Blog' and 'Box of Tricks' are the second and third preferences indicated by the Engineering & Technology library professionals. The least preference was given by them for 'NCS-Tech'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 3.19 and 4.33. The deviation of opinion ranges between 1.171 and 1.653. The Chi square test has been administered to identify the significance and the table value is 9.488 for 5% level of significance all the variables are identified as insignificant except 'NCS-Tech'.

### 7.8. Familiarity in E-Learning Software by LIS Professionals

The Distribution of Familiarity in E-Learning Software by LIS Professionals in engineering Colleges in South Tamil Nadu were analyzed with the five point scale such as 'No Idea, Aware, Learning, Fair and Expert' gender and it is shown in the table 8.

Table 8: Familiarity in E-Learning Software by LIS Professionals

Sl. No	E-Learning software	No Idea	Aware	Learning	Fair	Expert	Total	WAM	Rank
1	Guroo Ltd	5(4.07)	12(9.76)	21(17.07)	33(26.83)	52(42.28)	123	3.93	18
2	Frisk Online Limited	7(5.69)	10(8.13)	17(13.82)	42(34.15)	47(38.21)	123	3.91	19
3	RI Training	3(2.44)	11(8.94)	12(9.76)	50(40.65)	47(38.21)	123	4.03	17
4	MSK English	8(6.50)	9(7.32)	14(11.38)	29(23.58)	63(51.22)	123	4.06	15
5	Me Learning	6(4.88)	9(7.32)	26(21.14)	33(26.83)	49(39.84)	123	3.89	20
6	Commelius Solutions	5(4.07)	18(14.63)	22(17.89)	36(29.27)	42(34.15)	123	3.75	23
7	LEO	1(0.81)	9(7.32)	21(17.07)	37(30.08)	55(44.72)	123	4.10	11
8	Leanactive	3(2.44)	17(13.82)	28(22.76)	24(19.51)	51(41.46)	123	3.83	22
9	EdTeck	3(2.44)	7(5.69)	17(13.82)	25(20.33)	71(57.72)	123	4.25	2

	Services								
10	Momindum	7(5.69)	6(4.88)	26(21.14)	41(33.33)	43(34.96)	123	3.87	21
11	Impelsys	4(3.25)	7(5.69)	19(15.45)	34(27.64)	59(47.97)	123	4.11	10
12	Day one Technologies Ltd	5 (4.06)	9(7.31)	11(8.94)	35(28.45)	63(51.21)	123	4.15	6
13	Assima UK Ltd	2(1.63)	12(9.75)	16(13.00)	27(21.95)	66(53.65)	123	4.16	5
14	Real Projects	3(2.43)	8(6.50)	19(15.44)	31(25.20)	62(50.40)	123	4.14	8
15	iTrain	1(0.81)	10(8.13)	21(17.07)	32(26.01)	59(47.96)	123	4.12	9
16	AssessForCare	6(4.87)	7(5.69)	9(7.31)	49(39.83)	52(42.27)	123	4.08	14
17	ComOps	2(1.63)	7(5.69)	9(7.32)	37(30.08)	68(55.28)	123	4.31	1
18	TutorPro Ltd	3(2.44)	9(7.32)	16(13.01)	28(22.76)	67(54.47)	123	4.19	4
19	Virtual College Ltd	2(1.63)	11(8.94)	22(17.89)	25(20.33)	63(51.22)	123	4.10	11
20	Elderworld	4(3.25)	8(6.50)	24(19.51)	30(24.39)	57(46.34)	123	4.04	16
21	OC Open consulting srl	1(0.81)	6(4.88)	19(15.45)	44(35.77)	53(43.09)	123	4.15	6
22	SkillSet Ltd	3(2.44)	5(4.07)	16(13.01)	36(29.27)	63(51.22)	123	4.22	3
23	WCOD	2(1.63)	7(5.69)	23(18.70)	35(28.46)	56(45.53)	123	4.10	11

(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)

The table 8 shows the familiarities about E-Learning software by LIS Professionals Engineering colleges in the South Tamil Nadu. Among the 123 professional, 71(57.72%) professionals are stated EdTeck Services and 68 (55.28%) professionals are mentioned ComOps is familiar. But based on the WAM ranking ComOps/ Assima UK Ltd/ EdTeck Services are more familiar among LIS professionals in south Tamil Nadu.

### 7.9. Familiarity in E-Learning Software by LIS Professionals Vs Gender

The extent of familiarity on e-Learning Educational Blogs by LIS Professionals Vs gender wise has been analysed based on the responses and it is shown in the table.9.

**Table 9: Familiarity in E-Learning Software by LIS Professionals Vs Gender**

Sl. No.	E-Learning software	Male			Female			Sig.
		M	SD	R	M	SD	R	
1	Guroo Ltd	4.02	1.201	11	4.17	.941	3	0.309
2	Frisk Online Limited	4.01	1.136	14	3.89	1.214	14	0.473
3	RI Training	4.05	1.140	7	3.97	1.108	11	0.560
4	MSK English	3.79	1.331	22	3.83	1.404	17	0.697
5	Me Learning	4.02	1.161	9	4.28	.944	2	0.713
6	Commelius Solutions	4.00	1.121	16	3.72	1.406	21	0.205
7	LEO	4.03	1.333	8	4.14	1.125	4	0.334
8	Leanactive	4.01	1.166	14	4.00	1.121	10	0.856
9	EdTeck Services	4.14	.904	3	3.97	1.000	12	0.252
10	Momindum	3.98	1.285	17	3.72	1.386	21	0.808
11	Impelsys	4.05	.987	6	4.06	1.068	9	0.516
12	Day one Technologies Ltd	4.02	1.210	10	4.39	.903	1	0.342
13	Assima UK Ltd	4.13	1.043	5	3.89	1.116	15	0.809



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14	Real Projects	3.92	1.123	20	3.97	1.082	12	0.933
15	iTrain	4.01	.994	13	4.11	1.090	7	0.178
16	AssessForCare	3.94	1.252	19	4.14	1.046	4	0.600
17	ComOps	4.02	1.120	12	3.75	1.156	20	0.641
18	TutorPro Ltd	3.97	1.125	18	3.58	1.251	23	0.508
19	Virtual College Ltd	4.14	1.014	4	4.08	1.105	8	0.986
20	Elderworld	3.67	1.226	23	3.78	1.098	19	0.415
21	OC Open consulting srl	4.16	1.098	2	3.86	1.222	16	0.449
22	SkillSet Ltd	3.89	.982	21	4.14	.798	6	0.400
23	WCOD	4.17	.918	1	3.83	1.231	18	0.84

It can be seen from Table 9 that the library professionals from Engineering & Technology were analysed with gender. The Male professionals have given 'WCOD' as the first priority. 'OC Open consulting srl' and 'EdTeck Services' are the second and third preferences indicated by the library professionals. The least preference was given by them for 'Elderworld'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 3.67 and 4.17. The deviation of opinion ranges between 0.918 and 1.226. The Female professional has given 'Day one Technologies Ltd' the first priority. 'Me learning' and 'Guroo Ltd' are the second and third preferences indicated by the library professionals. The least preference was given by them for 'TutorPro Ltd'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 3.58 and 4.39. The deviation of opinion ranges between 0.903 and 1.251. The Chi square test has been administered to identify the significance and the table value is 9.488 for 5% level of significance all the variables are identified as insignificant.

## 8. CONCLUSION

The purpose of e-learning is to allow people to learn for personal accomplishment or to earn a professional degree, without physically attending a traditional university or academic setting. E-learning tools are mostly used by the user communities in academic libraries. E-learning makes good use of database and CMS (Content Management System) technologies. These two work hand in hand to store your course content, test results and student records. The data is stored in the database and the CMS provides a user interface for you to add, update and delete data. The maximum of educational information needs are fulfilled by E-Learning and services. The e-learning tools and services are very helpful to meet teaching professionals and requirements in a very faster manner. So, the library professionals must facilitate the all type of e-learning tools and services in their respective libraries through the various programmes like orientation, workshop, library websites, ICT oriented services etc.

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