

Use of E-Journals by Students and Research Scholars of Universities in Hyderabad

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***Abstract** - The Electronic Resources are playing a vital role in development of Research in educational organizations. Electronic Resources have changed the library scenario and it has thrown new challenges before the library professionals. Majority of the universities are used to good advantage of electronic resources which are being procured by numerous methods i.e., consortia based, through aggregator, individually procuring etc., ICT has a great impact on services of libraries. This paper discuss with the evolution and usage of Electronic Journals by the students and Research Scholars in Universities of Hyderabad. A study was conducted at the Universities in Hyderabad. This study analyses reference to the user perception, mode of searching, purpose, and most preferred format of electronic journals. It also highlights the point of view of the printed and electronic journals and the problems facing in accessing of electronic journals.*

Key Words: Electronic Journals, Electronic Resources, Web Resources, Online Journals.

Introduction

Increasing growth of Electronic Resources has made possible a revolutionary change in information provision. Enactment of Information Communication Technology in libraries has totally changed the concept and meaning of a library and made them from product providers to service providers. Electronic versions of information sources are undisputedly appealing universally accessible and economically viable than their print counterparts. Electronic Journals are usually available online but it can also be available offline in the information centres, simply say it can meet out all the requirements of a printed journal. Few of these electronic journals are available in print version also. The libraries are providing the facilities to access the electronic journals have made a great impact on the research scholars and students for their development and progress in research and education. New challenges are standing before the library professionals to provide the full text access to electronic journals publication both in print and electronic version of its end users.

Literature Review

Brown (2007) predicted the e-journals uses by researchers and academic staffs in Loughborough University. The University of Lough Borroughs has undertaken the electronic analysis of how researchers and academics perceived the e-journals at the academic year end, 2007. The e-journals carries t an increasingly significant role in research that creates a rising demand for back-runs and new titles. The library is lessening in significance as the physical place in which journals are consulted, for researchers. The research has revealed the work of library in connecting open URLs to the e-journals of University can't be known broadly.

When placing references to the journal articles, the academics employ the broad range of various approaches.

Chandrakumar (2009) presented the value and uses of e-journals by research scholars. The research on computer and information services can be established as the part of PhD programme. The university library must start the action to popularize the open source concept, electronic, digital and electronic library between research scholars by user or oriented education programmes. Also, this research advances the use and accessibility of UGC Infonet facilities between the researchers of university through offering the flawless access of e-resources. Many e-journals are available in electronic form that are made obtainable by consortium and open source. The digital information has manifestation attribute and e-journals are assumed as the useful resources.

Kumar & Reddy (2014) predicted the advantages of e-journals in university libraries using research scholars. In this research, there are various journals present in the universities like open access, UGC (University Grants Commission) -Infonet Digital Library Consortium journals and so on. UGC-Infonet e-journals are giving archival access to 10 databases of bibliography and above 7000 peer and core reviewed journals. The initiative of UGC-Infonet e-journals are first accepted by Indian University of Grants Commission in order to facilitate open access to the scholarly journals with databases in all disciplines and fields by the community of academic and research throughout the nation. The library uses open access journal system in many sections that help the users in finding or locating the required books. Research Information Network (2011) presented the impact, uses and value of E-Journals. The usage of books along with e-journals differs by discipline. The degree to which hard copy and electronic resources sit beside one another and differs by discipline, whereas the life science journal have essentially moved to completely digital world, still for back files of journal from 19th century and not all history journals are available electronically. For instance, in geology, it is necessary for the researchers to consult the hard copy of classic books as well as historians' rate the monographs as scholarly works of gold standards. In this report, there are five uses of e-journals such as find and discovery; e-search and attain digital content; use and access the information services; collaborative group management plus storage; and scholarly communications.

Shodhganga (2013) provided the concept of e-journals. The function of e-journal mayfall into four categories such as, to create the original research results available to broadest possible viewers; to allow an individual technologist or scientist to establish fact in which the first person to build a discovery, the process is formally called priority assignment; to offer a permanent archive or record of research that has been performed; and to make sure the guaranteed quality standards in papers approved for publication, this is attained by the referring system. In this research, there are various terms utilized for e-journals by authors like virtual journal, online journal, e-serials and paperless journal. E-journal launches more stimulating potentials and opportunities for "*science and technological libraries*" in R & D (Research and Development) organizations. In order to advance the e-journals applications in R & D of science and technological organizations, it is significant in which libraries must enhance their ICT infrastructure.

Objectives of the Study

- To find out the use and awareness of Electronic Journals by the Research scholars
- To study the purpose and usage of Electronic Journals by the Researchers
- To determine the opinion about the printed journals and electronic journals availability in libraries.
- To know the techniques for using and searching of electronic journals.
- To learn the problems faced by the researchers in accessing electronic journals.

Methodology

The survey method has been used for the conclusion of the study. A meticulous questionnaire was prepared with closed and open ended questions. The Researcher personally visited to the universities for the collection of the data and the results are shown by means of pie charts and bar charts. The study is limited to the research scholars of Universities in Hyderabad.

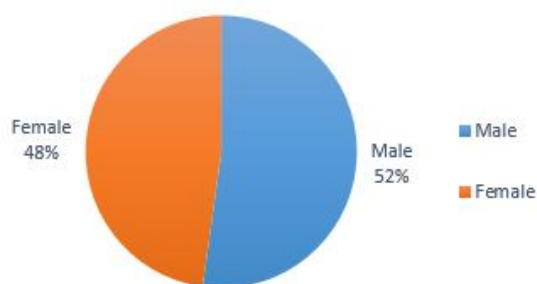
Distribution of Questionnaire

For the purpose of this study university libraries i.e., Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University Library, Osmania University Library, JNTU Library, University of Hyderabad were selected as sample. A total of 1000 questionnaires were distributed belongs to different strata.

Table-1
Respondents by Gender

Gender	No. of Responses	Percentage
Male	376	52.2
Female	344	47.8
Total	720	100

03. Gender :



The above table-1 shows the gender wise distribution of the respondents. The sample consists of 376 or 52.2% are Male, and 344 or 47.8% are Female. The total sample size is 720.

Awareness of E-Journals

Table-2
Awareness of E-journals

Particulars	Responses	Percentage
Yes	693	98
No	14	2
Total	707	100

As per the above table-2 it shows that almost all are aware of the E-Journals in the library. The user were asked about the awareness of Electronic Journals, Majority 693 (98%) respondents told that they know the electronic journals. Merely 14(2%) of the respondents said they are not aware of the electronic journals.

How you become aware of E-Journals

Table-3
How you become aware of E-Journals

Particulars	Responses	Percentage
Self	164	25
Teacher / Guide	164	25
Library Staff	176	26
Inernet	155	23
Other	8	1
Total	667	100

It is evident table-3 shows that 164 (25%) aware of E-Journals by self. Another 164 (25%) respondents told that through their teacher / guide they came to know about the e-journals. 176(26%) respondents told they came to know about the e-journals with the help of library staff. Some 155 (23%) told that while browsing the internet they came to know about the e-journals. Remaining a meagre 8(1%) through other they came to know about the e-journals. It is evident most of the respondents are aware about the e-journals, either by self or by their teacher or guide guidance. Remaining respondents came to know when they are searching in the internet or with the help of the library staff. Lesser respondents 8(1%) came to know with the help of others.

Use and Access of E-Journals

Table-4
Use and Access of E-Journals

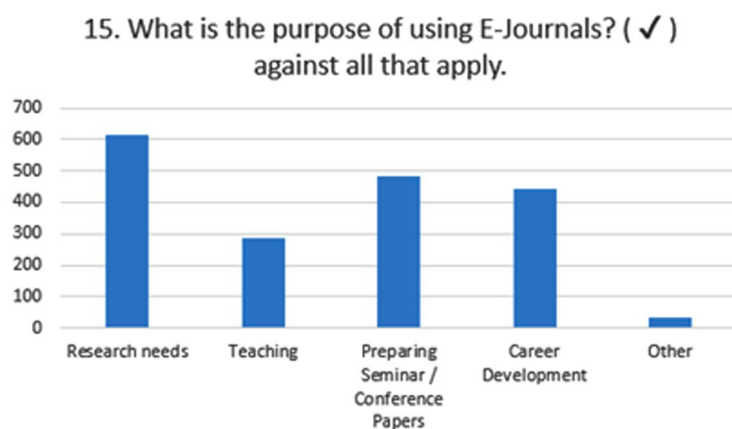
Particulars	Responses	Percentage
Yes	590	87
No	59	8
Can't say	32	5
Total	680	100

Above table-4 states that, it is clear that majority 590 (87%) of the respondents told that they are accessing the E-Journals. In that 59 (8%) said they are not using the E-Journals. Only 32 (5%) respondents said they can't say about the usage of E-Journals As per the above table and figure we can easily say that most of the respondents are using the e-journals. Only 13% respondents told either they are not using or they can't say whether they are using it or not.

Purpose of using E-Journals

Table-5
Purpose of using E-Journals

Particulars	Responses
Research needs	617
Teaching	288
Preparing Seminar / Conference Papers	482
Career Development	441
Other	32



Note: Users were permitted to tick more than one answer

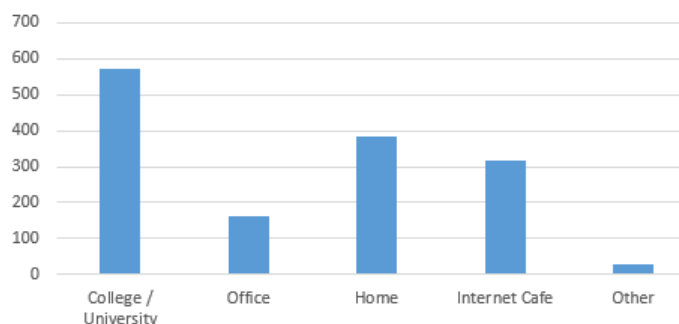
As per the above table-5 it shows that majority of the respondents 617 have indicated they use e-journals for research needs. Some 288 respondents expressed that they use for teaching purpose. However, there are some more respondents who said besides using for preparing conference papers they also use for career development as well. Very few respondents said they use for other purposes. Over all the above bar chart and the table indicates that research needs are the main reason for using of e-journals

Place of accessing the E-Journals

Table-6
Place of accessing the E-Journals

Particulars	Responses
College / University	572
Office	162
Home	383
Internet Cafe	315
Other	27

16. Where do you usually access E-Journals? (✓)
 against all that apply.



Note: Users were permitted to tick more than one answer

It is evident that the above table-6 shows that more number of respondents 572 told that they generally access the e-journals in their college or university. 383 respondent said they use at home only. Some respondents expressed they access the e-journals at the Internet Cafe. Few users only expressed they browse in their offices as well.

Satisfaction with the E-Journal subscribed by the Library

Table-7
 Satisfaction with e-Journals

Particulars	Responses	Percentage
Very satisfied	117	17
Satisfied	356	50
Unsure	140	20
Dissatisfied	95	13
Very dissatisfied	0	0
Total	707	100

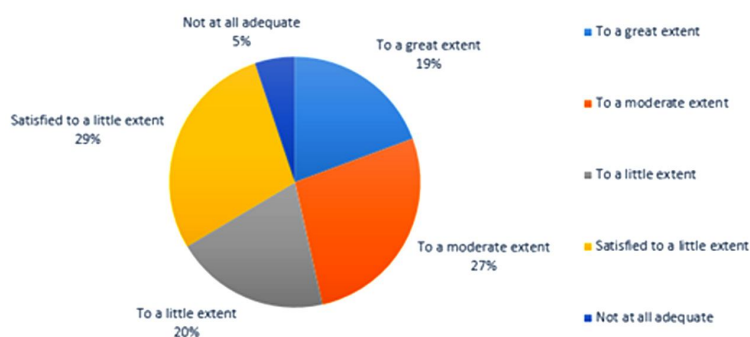
Table-7 reveals that 50% of the respondents are satisfied with the subscription of the e-journals by their library. In that 17% expressed they are very satisfied with the library e-journal collection. Some 20% respondent were unsure about the library e-journal subscription. Only 13% respondents were dissatisfied with the e-journal collection of their library. Finally no respondent expressed that they were very dissatisfied with the library e-journal collection. Overall it just files that the e-journal subscription of the libraries most of the respondents were satisfied.

Facilities to access e-journals in your library

Table-8
 E-Journals access facilities in the Library

Particulars	Responses	Percentage
To a great extent	135	19
To a moderate extent	189	27
To a little extent	140	20
Satisfied to a little extent	198	28
Not at all adequate	36	5
Total	698	100

To what extent are the infrastructure facilities adequate in your library/Institution to access and use E-Journals?



If we observe the above table-8 and figure it is evident that overall 66% of the respondents feel they are satisfied with the facilities provided by the library. In that 28% feel a little extent they are happy with the facilities to access the e-journals in the library. Only 5% feel that they are not at all adequate the facilities to access the e-journals in their library

Format of E-Journals

Table-9
 Format of E-Journals

Particulars	Responses	Percentage
Print	207	31
Electronic	189	29
Both	266	40
Total	662	100

It indicates from the above table-9 that 40% of the respondents use both the print version as well as electronic version of the journals. However, 31% says they only prefer print version is more comfortable for usage. 29% of the respondents expressed that Electronic version of the journals are more convenient for them to use.

Impact of E-journals could make on working environment

Table-10
 Impact of E-journals

Particulars	Responses	Percentage
Very favorably	243	34
Favorably	360	51
No Impact	81	12
Unfavorably	23	3
Very Unfavorably	0	0
Very unfavorably	707	100

Table10 shows that 85% of respondents together very favourably and favourably, that e-journals could make a favourable impact on their working environment. Few 11% told that e-journals make no impact in their working environment. Only 3% respondents told the

impact of e-journal usage unfavourably to their working environment. No one responded for the very unfavourably about the impact of e-journals could make on their working environment.

Suggestions

- University libraries should exhaust available option for Electronic Journal collection development policy.
- Electronic Journals should be procured as per the user's needs and made available for the use of their disparate clientele.
- Systematic updating and web hosting in Library's web pages will enhance the use of Electronic Journals.
- Libraries should conduct user orientation programmes, workshops for maximum usage of Electronic Journals.

Conclusion

The Electronic Journals act as microscope and a telescope for scholars by facilitating both deep and narrow searches of core content and broad searches that cover the periphery of subfields and distinct disciplines. Majority of the users are using the Electronic Journals only for their education or teaching purpose. Providing the acquisition of Electronic Journals in the libraries enhance the study and research of the universities as well as the nation. Electronic Journals are popular in the midst of all the Electronic Resources for its uniqueness and facet. Day by day the demand for Electronic Journals requirement is increasing. Libraries need to allot more funds towards procuring these Electronic Journals to satisfy the needs of the users. Simultaneously libraries need to take the feedback and suggestions from the users what type of Electronic Journals to be subscribed.

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