

USE OF E-JOURNALS BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS OF ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN WARANGAL, TELANGANA: A STUDY



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Short Profile

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ABSTRACT:

A Journal is an important resource for up-to-date information on all disciplines. Journals play a vital role in the distribution of primary information. Lot of journals from all fields is currently available electronically via web. Majority of university libraries and special libraries spend major part of their budget on the acquisition of journals. Due to the advent of information technology, a paradigm shifts from print journals to e-journals have taken place in past one decade. E-Journals are becoming very important information source for the faculty members to carry out meaningful research in almost all disciplines.

KEYWORDS

E-journals, Features of E-journals, Limitations of E-journals, Search Engines

1. INTRODUCTION :

With the emergence of IT applications in libraries in general and with the advent of Internet in particular, there is a paradigm shift from traditional print journals to electronic journals in higher education institutions. E-journals have revolutionized the information seeking activity of researchers. The e-journal is being called by various synonymous terms like online journal, paperless journal, and virtual journal. A journal can be called as e-journal, if its contents are produced and stored in electronic form, and if these contents can be scanned in a database and retrieved online, it can be called as online journal. Some experts regard e-journal as the one that is produced, published, and distributed nationally and internationally through some electronic network like internet. (Lancaster, 1995).

2. E-JOURNALS:

Electronic journals appeared during 1970's but became popularized in 1996. E-journals are periodical literature that is made available as individual titles via electronic medium, typically the World Wide Web. E-journals for all practical purposes may be defined as those journals which are available in Electronic media some may be available on CD-ROM; a few may be available both in electronic and print formats. Today most of the journals appear as parallel version of their print counterparts. E-journals could be accessed through the Web.

Most commercial journals are subscription-based, or allow pay-per-view access. Many universities subscribe in bulk to packages of electronic journals, so as to provide access to them to their students and faculty. It is generally also possible for individuals to purchase an annual subscription to a journal, via the original publisher. Most electronic journals are published in HTML and/or PDF formats, but some are available in only one of the two formats. A small minority publishes in DOC, and a few are starting to add MP3 audio. Some early electronic journals were first published in ASCII text, and some informally published ones continue in that format.

3. FEATURES OF AN E-JOURNAL

E-journals are becoming increasingly in demand both as a means of rapid desktop access to current research materials and as a way to view past volumes. E-journals offer a range of potential advantages to libraries and end-users:

- Delivered to the desktop of the Reader
- Can be used/Read simultaneously by more than one user at a time
- Full-text searching possible
- Can include multimedia, graphics
- Can be published more quickly than print
- Can be interactive
- Hyperlinked internally, externally
- Content can be reproduced, forwarded, modified
- E-journals save physical space to store. It also solves the problems of shelving, missing issues, missing pages and tearing of pages etc.

4.LIMITATIONS OF E-JOURNALS:

- Reading on the computer screens is less reliable than print media. It is problematic to read particularly over four or five hours on computer screen at a single time.
- Copyright issues prevent archiving of previous issues in a permanent memory like hard disk. Upgrading of information to new formats also encompasses problems. Online archiving on the publishers websites is not a permanent solution.
- It needs an infrastructure to avail information which requires special equipments in the library.
- Readers should be computer literate for electronic access of e-journals.

5.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of the present study are;

- 1.To study the frequency and purpose of visiting the library
- 2.To know the awareness and purpose of using the e-journals
- 3.To find out the commonly used search engines for accessing e-journals.
- 4.To identify the problems encountered while using the e-journals
- 5.To suggest suitable suggestions to improve the use of e-journals

6.SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The scope of the study limited to the use of e-journals by the faculties of selected Engineering College Libraries located in Warangal District, Telangana state only.

7.METHODOLOGY:

In this study, a structured questionnaire was prepared covering the relevant aspect of the study. It was distributed to faculties working in engineering colleges located in and around the Warangal District during the 1st October 2014 to 30th December 2014. Out of 27 Engineering colleges I am selected only 10 Engineering colleges in this study. In total 150 questionnaires were distributed to the faculties who are working in 10 engineering colleges located in Warangal. 15 questionnaires were distributed in each Engineering college.

8. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Hulya Dilek-Kayaoglu (2006) Istanbul University faculties were surveyed to examine their use of electronic journals. The majority of respondents supported the transition from print to e-only. This support was particularly provided from the faculty in the field of natural sciences.

Henk Voorbij, Hilde Ongering,(2006) Dutch faculty was surveyed as to their use of electronic journals. It was concluded that electronic journals have become indispensable for scientists and social scientists, and have a profound effect on information behavior, varying from methods of becoming aware of relevant articles to benefits on research.

Borrego et al., (2007) surveyed the use of print and e-journals and found that more than 95 percent of the respondents are aware of the e-journals. Electronic journals are used exclusively or predominantly by 52 percent of the respondents. 76 percent of the respondents prefer the electronic

format over the printed format when both formats are accessible. 53.6 percent of the respondents consult e-journals for both research and teaching.

Nikam & Pramodini, (2007) describe the use of e-journals and data bases by the users of University of Mysore. Nearly 200 responses to a survey based on questionnaire have been analyzed and present by the authors. The paper also examines the utilization and satisfaction levels of users with respect to the e-resources.

Thanuskodi, S., and S. Ravi (2011) reviewed the utilisation of digital resources by faculty and research scholars of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. Nearly 67.14 per cent of the faculty is familiar with the use of digital resources, and majority of the members are using digital resources for research purpose, learning the required skills for the usage of digital resources through self-study.

Gupta, Dinesh K (2011) analysed the use of electronic journals from the INFONET consortium by faculty and research scholars of physics and chemistry at Kurukshetra University. The respondents are more attracted towards e-journals than print journals, they depend more on opensource materials than those available via INFONET, the need for training in using e-resources and retrieving information from them from time-to-time. The use of e-resources, particularly ejournals, is increasing in the developing countries.

9. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The data collected from the faculties has been prepared in the following paragraphs in the form of Tables and Graphs.

9.1 Gender Wise Distribution of the Faculties:

Sex	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	85	56.7
Female	65	43.3
Total	150	100

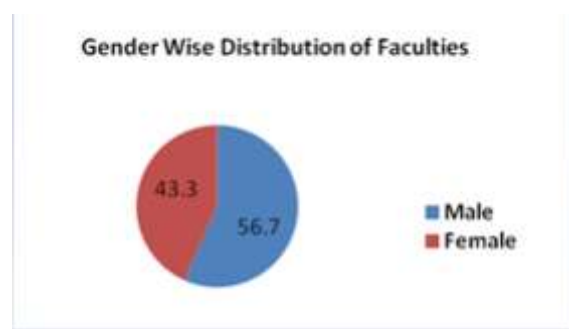


Table- 1: Gender Wise Distribution of Faculties

Graph- 1: Gender Wise Distribution of Faculties

From the Table-1, 56.7 % of the respondents are from male faculty and the remaining 43.3 % from the female faculty.

9.2 Frequency of Visit to the Library

Frequency	No. of frequencies	Percentage (%)
Daily	78	52
Once in a Week	36	24
Once in a Month	24	16
Rarely	12	8
Total	150	100

Table-2: Frequency of Visit to the Library

Table-2 shows that majority of the respondents 52 % visit the library daily. 24% once in a week and remaining 16% are rarely visiting the library.

9.3 Purpose of visit to the library

Purpose of visit	No. of responses	Percentage (%)
Issue/Return of Books	26	17.33
To Collect Reading Material	82	54.66
To Access Internet	56	37.33
To Read Journals	28	18.66

(Multiple responses were permitted)

Table-3: Purpose of visit to the library

Table-3 indicates that majority 54.66 percent of the faculties visit the library for the purpose of collect the reading material, 37.33 percent are to access the internet, 17.33 percent are for the purpose of issue/return of books and 18.66 are for read the journals.

9.4 Awareness of using e-journals

Electronic information sources are often faster than the print materials. The faculty members are using electronic journal, e-books and CD-Rom databases for current information on their specific subject.

Use of E-journals	No. of Respondents
YES	130 (87%)
No	20 (13%)
Total:	150

Table –4: Awareness of using e-journals

The above Table-4 indicates that 87 percent of the faculties use e-journal, while 13 percent of the faculties do not use e-journals.

9.5 Purpose of use of e-journals by faculty members

Purpose	No. of frequencies	Percentage (%)
Research Needs (thesis/dissertation/project work)	84	56
Current information Needs	33	22
Publishing articles	38	25.33
Preparing assignment and seminar presentation	32	21.33
Professional achievements	9	6

(Multiple responses were permitted)

Table-5: Purpose of use of e-journals by faculty members

The Table-5 shows the majority 56% of faculty members use e-journals mostly for research needs, 22% uses it for current information needs and 6% used for professional achievements. About 25.33% of the respondents often used e-journals for publishing articles, 21.33% often use for preparing assignment and seminar presentations.

9.6 Preferred Search Engines

Search engines	No. of frequencies	Percentage (%)
Google	86	66.16
Yahoo	21	16.16
MSN	9	6.92
Alta Vista	6	4.62
Lycos	5	3.84
Hot Bot	3	2.3

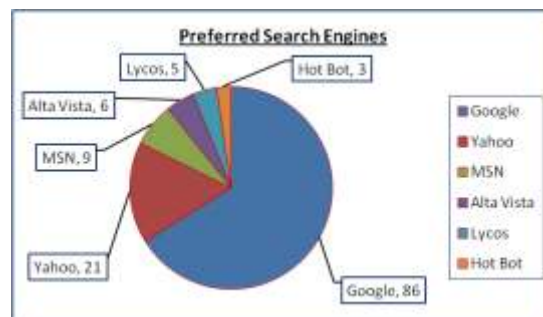


Table-6

Graph-II

Table- 6 & Graph- II: Preferred Search Engines for search the Information

The preferred search engine used by the faculties for searching information from internet has been summarized in the form of Table-6. The Table-6 depicts that 66.16 % of faculties prefer Google search engine for accessing electronic information from internet, followed by 16.16 % Yahoo, 6.92 % MSN, 4.62% Alta Vista and 2.3 % using Hot Bot for searching information from online.

9.7 Place of Access of E-Journals:

E-Journals Access Place	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Computer Lab	91	70
Personnel Laptop	16	12.3
Browsing Centre	8	6.15
Mobile Phone	11	8.47
Tablet	4	3.08

Table –7 Place of Access of E-Journals:

Table-7 shows that mostly the 70 % of respondents searching e-journals from the computer lab and 12.3 % of respondents searching on their laptops at home or in office. Very less number of respondents was using e-journals on tablet i.e. 3.08 %.

9.8 Problems faced while using e-journals

Problems	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Limited computers	56	43.08
Low speed	44	33.84
Lack of adequate knowledge in using	15	11.53
Difficulty in finding relevant information	20	15.38

(Multiple responses were permitted)

Table-8: Problems faced while using e-journals

Table -8 indicates that a majority of the respondents 43.08 percent are facing problems in using e-journals due to limited no of computer systems.33.84 percent are stated that the speed is low.15.38 percent are facing difficulty in finding relevant information.

9.9 Satisfaction of available e-journals

Opinion	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	91	70
No	39	30
Total:	130	100

Table-9: Satisfaction of available e-journals

The above Table shows that 70 % of the respondents are satisfied the available e-journals in their libraries. Only 30 % are responded negatively.

10. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- i) Based on the analysis of the survey data, the following findings and suggestions are made to improve the usage of e-journals among engineering students in the GEC library.
- ii) Majority of the respondents 52 percent are visiting the library daily.
- iii) Majority of the respondents 54.66 percent visit the library to collect reading material.
- iv) Majority of the respondents using e-journals for their research purpose.
- v) Majority of the respondents 43.08 percent are facing limited no of computers are the main problem for using the e-journals.
- vi) 70 percent of the respondents are satisfied with the available e-journals in their libraries.

11. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVE THE ACCESS OF E-JOURNALS:

- i) Information literacy programs must be conduct not only to the students but also for the faculty members.
- ii) The number of computer systems to be increase to overcome the problem of "limited access to computers".
- iii) Increase the bandwidths of all the libraries so as to provide faster access that will save much of the users' time and be a source of motivation to use e-journals. This will also solve the problem of slow downloading.
- iv) Faculty members should guide the students to abreast the developments in their subjects.

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