
USE OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS AMONG EDUCATION FACULTY MEMBERS IN VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT : A SURVEY

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Abstract

Electronic journal is one of the products of information and communication technologies. The advancement of e-journal during recent years has given librarians a powerful new resource to support learning and research. This study reports the result of a survey conducted at education faculty members in virudhunagar district to determine the extent to which user are aware and make use of e-journals. The study also examines the search pattern of e-journals. A questionnaire was distributed among the faculty members to collect desired data. A total of 250 questionnaires were distributed to the selected sample of Library users; 228 valid samples were collected. The studies found that majority (84.51%) of the male users were aware about the e- journals where as only (69.77 %) of female respondents were aware about the availability of e-journals. The analysis reveals that most of the respondents (32.46 %) use e-journals for writing papers. It could be noted that majority of the male respondents (34.51%) have less than 2 hours of access to internet, whereas, majority of the female respondents (26.74%) have 2-3 hours of access to internet. It could be noted that majority of the male respondents (30.28%) using e-journals daily, a considerable number of female respondents (24.82%) is using e-journals thrice a week. It is clear that most of the respondents (39.47 %) search e-journals through linking facility available on the library website followed by (30.70 %) search engines.

KEYWORDS :

E-Journals, printed journals, Search Engines, File Format, Library website, Education, information and communication technologies, User study.

INTRODUCTION:

Journals in a library play vital role in distributing nascent facts and primary information to users. They publish articles and papers on recent research and development, particularly in the ever changing fields of management, science, and technology. Advent of electronic journals (e-journals) during recent years has given librarians a powerful new resource to support learning and research. Lot of journals, in all fields, both printed as well as electronic, are currently available electronically via web. Availability ranges from table of contents to the full text. Some journals only exist in their online format and others have both printed as well as electronic versions¹.

In the 1960s and 1970s, librarians were using electronic databases as a part of library services. In the 1980s, libraries started using CD-ROM versions of electronic databases. In 1990s and from 2000 onwards, Internet access and consortia approach of journals subscriptions diversified the availability of

electronic information. Presently many libraries in India have provisions to access the same electronic information in multiple ways. As electronic information and its access has grown, selection of information sources has become complex. When alternatives were limited, selection was primarily based on the access and cost factors. As CD-ROM and tape-loaded with electronic information became available, local area networks (LANs) and interfaces became important issues in their selection. Now with multiple sources of information, human, demographic, and technological factors have become important in their selection process. In addition to these, factors like training standards, password protection mechanism, links-to-holdings, and full-text availability are the parameters used by the users for the selection process. Because of the dynamic nature of electronic information, traditional selection criteria are not effective, so new criteria must be developed or adopted. Internet has made tremendous impact on the academic activities of the faculty members, researchers, and the students.

After the advent of Internet, a significant transition is seen in users' approach and the way they seek information and the methods they use in research and learning activities. This has become possible as Internet provides a wealth of new course materials and acts as a powerful supplement to the traditional ways of studying and learning. Internet is now facilitating electronic communication, exchange of ideas, and collaboration in research globally. Internet can be accessed for the latest developments in one's area of research at an amazing speed. It also plays a significant role in distance education and conferencing and thus transforming the academicians as facilitators in providing guidance, drawing students, and steering observations. The Internet, therefore, creates an excellent academic environment where the academic community can perform their activities in a rejuvenated manner. (Surendra Babu, Saradha and Ramaiah, 2010)². The impact of e-journals on library collection, services, and administration is complex. Electronic version of journals changes the publication system entirely.

They provide easy access to a journal and thereby save time. Keyword search ability, accessibility at the time of publication, etc., are some of the features of e-journals. Despite various advantages and popularity, e-journals have failed to replace or displace printed journals and act more as supplement to printed journals. Today most of the e-journals appear as parallel version of their print counterparts³.

2. E- JOURNALS

Journals in a library play vital role in distributing nascent facts and primary information to users. They publish articles and papers on recent research and development, particularly in the ever changing fields of management, science, and technology. Advent of electronic journals (e-journals) during recent years has given librarians a powerful new resource to support learning and research. Lot of journals, in all fields, both printed as well as electronic, are currently available electronically via web. Availability ranges from table of contents to the full text. Some journals only exist in their online format and others have both printed as well as electronic versions¹.

E-journals offers many opportunities to today's users that were not available to their Predecessors⁹. Because of the multidimensional features of e-journals, they are becoming the choice of academic as well as public library users. Electronic journals can be accessed round the clock across geographical barriers, which make e-journals omnipresent. The e-journals get published or reach the subscribers much before their counterparts. Another important feature of e-journals is that more than one person can access them at a time. Moreover, articles can be downloaded and printed simultaneously by more than one reader, depending on access rights and permission. Electronic journals offset the missing issue problems. If a particular volume of print

version of the journal is not complete, library staff can download and print all the articles available online or can save it in digital form till the hard copy is supplied by the publisher. Electronic journals also include multimedia and graphics and text search is much easier and less cumbersome. Electronic journals are better for the environment, by reducing the space; dust and the air pollution. The hypertext available in the electronic journal will directly link to the areas of greatest interest and results in creative reading. Electronic publication provides online submission of manuscripts and we can also keep track of the submitted manuscripts with the reference number.[6]

This reduces the time of publication of manuscripts. The content of the electronic journal can be

reproduced, forwarded, modified, leading to possible problems with copyright protection and preserving authenticity.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Kannappanavar and Rajanikanta's (2008) The paper highlights the use of e-learning resources in medical colleges. Study found that the Medical education popularized only after the independence of the country. It is found that majority of the colleges under the study have e-information resources, e-databases. Almost all colleges under study are also becoming members of a consortium. As for as the infrastructure facilities are concerned almost all colleges under study have provided very good infrastructure facilities to their libraries to serve their client effectively. Further, majority of colleges are also having internet and network facilities⁴.

Valauskas, defines an The diversity of electronic journals in the past five years has led some to predict the extinction of traditional academic journals, that a new "paradigm" is sweeping scholarship. A closer examination of the ways in which digital and printed scholarly journals are developed clearly indicates that most electronic journals are not all that different in their fundamental editorial processes than print. Hence future researchers will enjoy a rich variety of media to share ideas and data with colleagues, providing greater opportunities for communication, debate, and agreement⁵. The introduction of digital information resources on Internet has revolutionized the academic world. The Internet is paving way for a great leap in the field of higher education and research. For this purpose a survey was carried out using questionnaire tool. The results show that users from all branches of science are making use of Internet resources better than social sciences and humanities. Providing training to its users at the beginning of each semester will improve its use and reduce the problems faced by the library users. The paper highlighted the various problems and issues involved in handling digital library and has given suggestions to improve the library services to meet the demands of the users⁶. Another definition says, E-Journals are nothing but, "Electronic versions of printed journals that can be viewed online via any PC connected to the Internet"⁷.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:

1. To find out the sex, category wise distribution of respondents.
2. To study the awareness about e- journals.
3. To find out the frequency of using e-journals.
4. To study the purpose and utilization of e-journals.
5. To suggest suitable recommendations to improve facilities and services related to the use of e-journals.

5. METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view of the above objectives in mind, a structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data from the users of e-journals among Education Faculty Members in virudhunagar district. Questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to the awareness and use of e-journals. For this purpose a total of 250 questionnaires were distributed among education faculty members in and around virudhunagar district. Out of 250 questionnaires distributed, 228 valid questionnaires were collected this constitutes 91.02% (228/250) of the total response. The collected data were analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in form of this paper.

6. DATA ANALYSIS

TABLE 1. SEX WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS :

Gender	No .of respondents	Percentage
Male	142	62.28
Female	86	37.72
Total	228	100

Table-1. It is shown in table-1, 62.28 % of population studied was males and only 37.72 % of total were females, who can use e-journals available through library for different purposes.

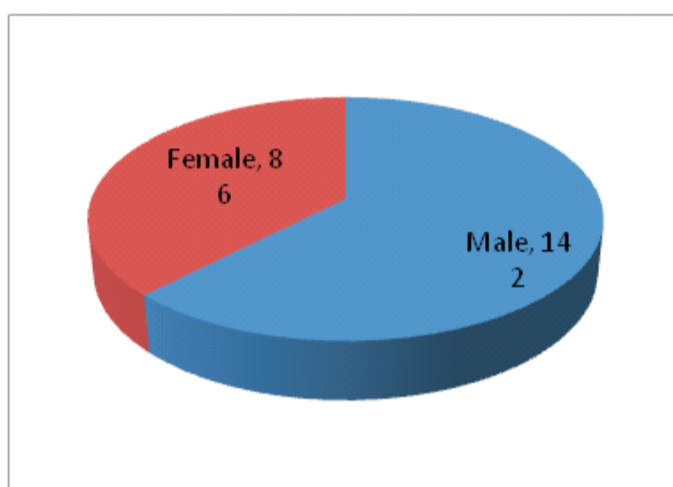


TABLE 2 CATEGORY WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS :

Academic statue	No. of respondents	Percentage
Professor	28	12.80
Associate Professor	41	17.98
Assistant Professor	64	28.07
Lecturer	95	41.66
Total	228	100

Table-2 shows that 41.66% of the respondents were Lecturer, 28.07 5% Assistant Professor,17.98 % Associate Professors and only 12.80 % were Professors.

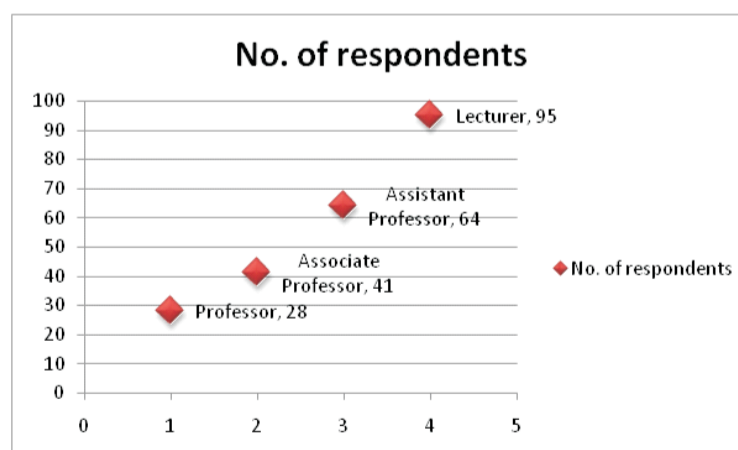
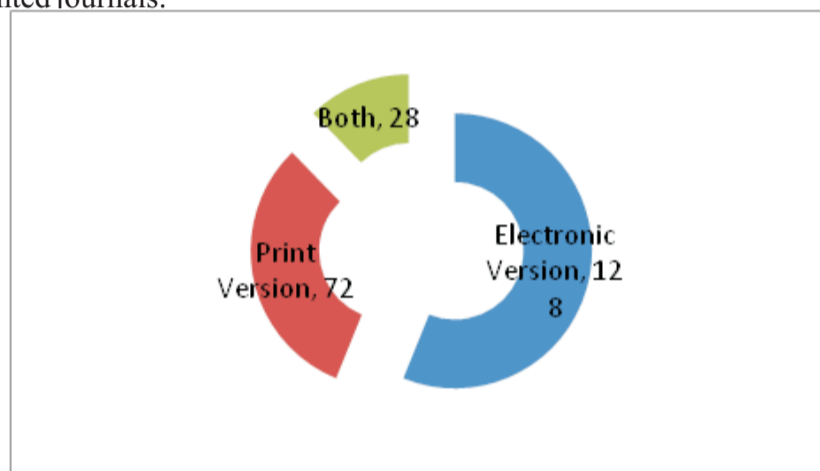


TABLE 3 PREFERENCE LEVEL OF USING E- JOURNALS:

Type	Number	Percentage
Electronic Version	128	56.14
Print Version	72	31.58
Both	28	12.28
Total	228	100

The result reveals that 56.14 % of respondents want to access only electronic version of journals whereas only 31.58 % users want to read the printed journals but 12.28 % respondents want to use both electronic and printed journals.

**TABLE 4 RESPONDENTS FREQUENCY OF ACCESS TO INTERNET :**

Gender	Less than 2 Hours	2-3 Hours	3-4 Hours	4-5 Hours	Above 5 Hours	Total
Male	49	25	24	10	34	142
Female	21	26	14	17	8	86
Total	70	51	38	27	42	228

Data presented in table-4 indicate the gender wise respondents' frequency of access to internet. It could be noted that majority of the male respondents (34.51%) have less than 2 hours of access to internet, whereas, majority of the female respondents (26.74 %) have 2-3 hours of access to internet. It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that majority of the male respondents have above 5 hours of access to internet.

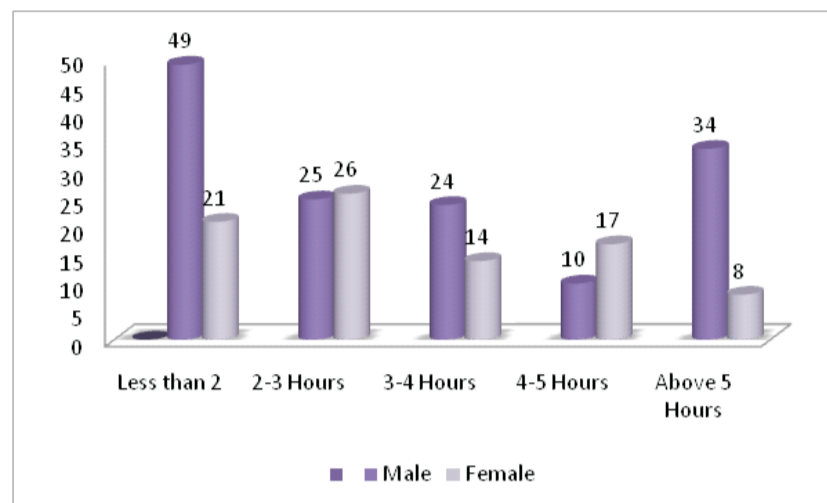


TABLE 5 RESPONDENTS FREQUENCY OF USING INTERNET :

Gender	Daily	Thrice a week	Twice a week	Once a week	Once in a Fortnight	As and when required	Total
Male	43	19	10	35	29	6	142
Female	13	21	19	17	7	9	86
Total	56	40	29	52	36	15	228

Data presented in table-6 indicate the gender wise respondents' frequency of using e-journals. It could be noted that majority of the male respondents (30.28 %) using e-journals daily, a considerable number of female respondents (24.82 %) is using e-journals thrice a week.

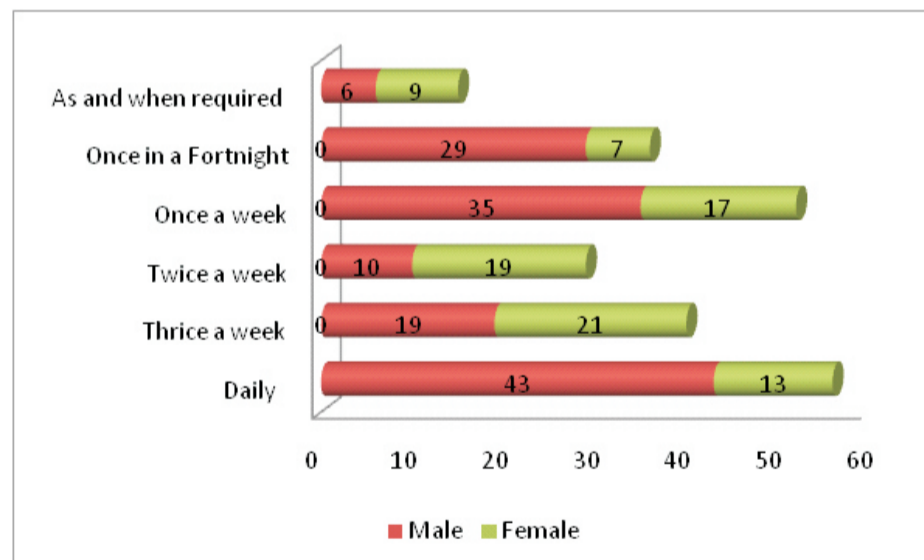
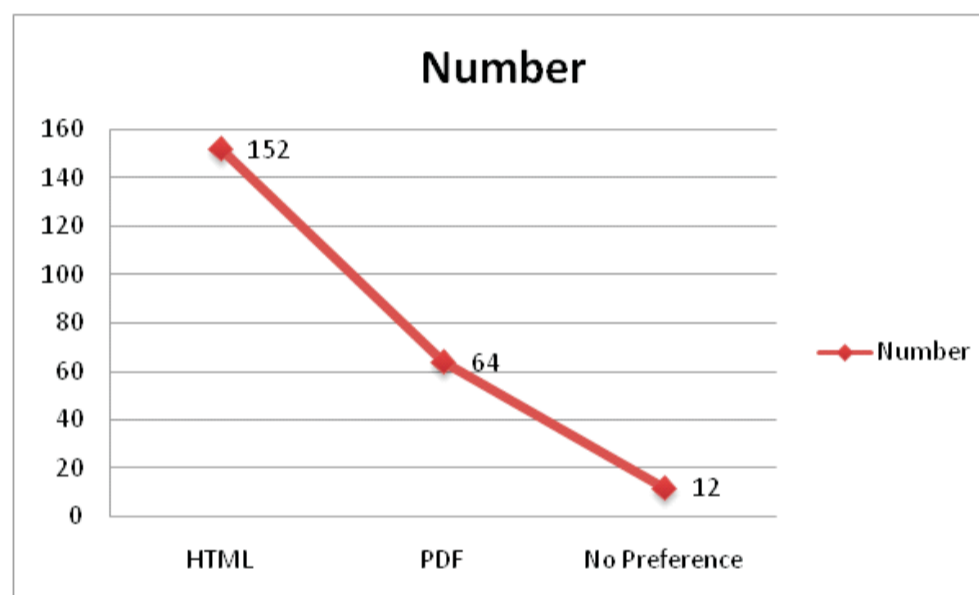


TABLE 6 FILE FORMATS OF E- JOURNALS :

File Formats	Number	Percentage
HTML	152	66.67
PDF	64	28.06
No Preference	12	5.26
Total	228	100

E-Journals are available in two major formats PDF and HTML. It was observed from the analysis that (66.67 %) of respondents preferred PDF format for using e-journals, whereas (28.07 %) of respondents preferred HTML format; and (5.26 %) have no preference.

**TABLE 7 AWARENESS ABOUT E- JOURNALS:**

Gender	Aware	Not aware	Total
Male	120	22	142
Female	60	26	86
Total	180	48	228

Table-7 shows the awareness of e-journals among the respondents available through the library. (84.51 %) of the male users were aware about the e-journals whereas only (66.76 %) of female respondents were aware about the availability of e-journals. It can be seen that male respondents are more aware about e-journals than females.

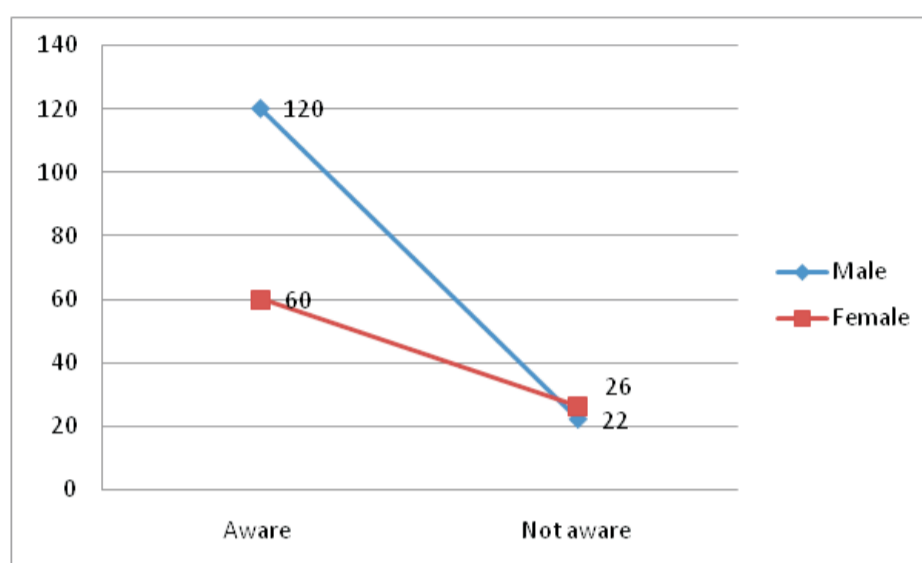


TABLE 8 SATISFACTION OF ACCESSING E- JOURNALS:

Level	Number	Percentage
Highly satisfied	126	55.26
Satisfied	62	27.19
Average	32	14.04
Not satisfied	8	3.51
Total	228	100

A question was asked to know the satisfaction level of infrastructure among the users for accessing e-journals. It was observed that majority 55.26 % of respondents are highly satisfied with the infrastructure provided by the library for accessing e-journals at different levels whereas only 3.51% of respondents are not satisfied with the same.

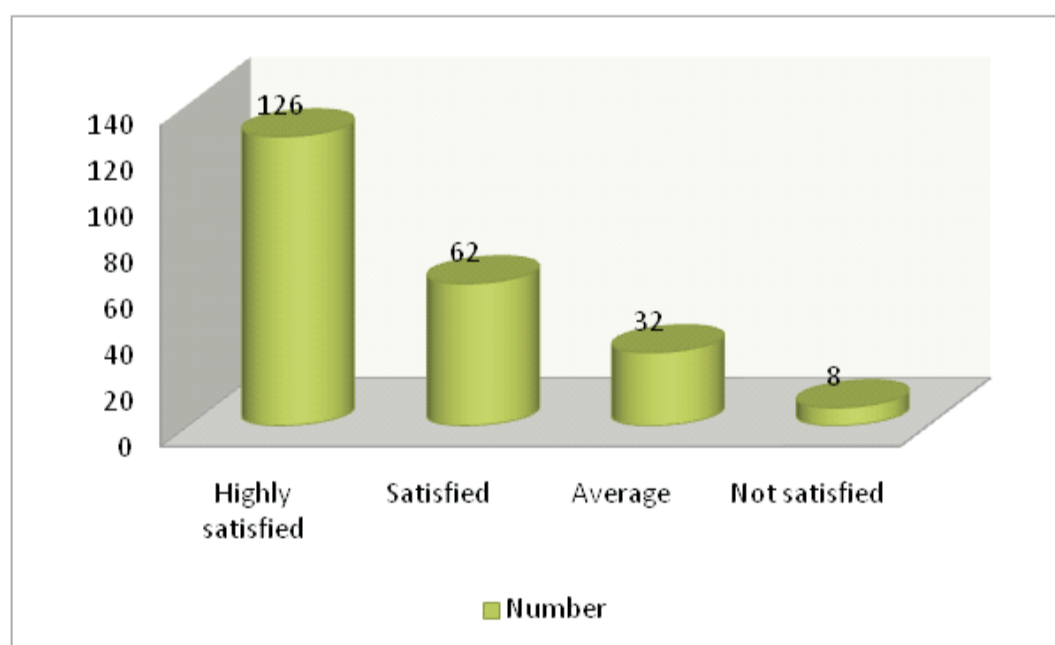
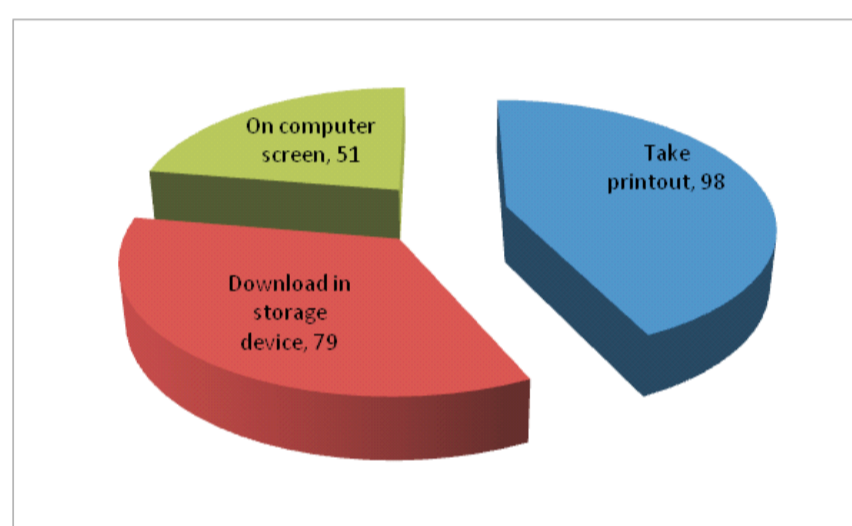


TABLE:9 USE PATTERN OF E- JOURNALS :

Use pattern	Number	Percentage
Take printout	98	42.98
Download in storage device	79	34.65
On computer screen	51	22.37
Total	228	100

Respondents were asked to indicate how they use the content of e-journals? It was observed from analysis that the majority 42.98% of respondents take printout form e-journals. 34.65% download the content in storage devices and 23.37% of respondents use on the computer screen.

**TABLE:10 LOCATION FOR ACCESSING E- JOURNALS :**

Location	Number	Percentage
Central library	94	41.23
Department library	66	28.95
Computer center	42	18.42
Other places	26	11.40
Total	228	100

When respondents were asked to indicate the preferred location to access e-journals, It is observed from the study of table-10 shows that 41.23 % of the respondents chose the central library, about 28.95 % accessed at the department library, 18.42 % accessed at the computer center and 11.40% accessed from other place where they got facility to access e-journals.

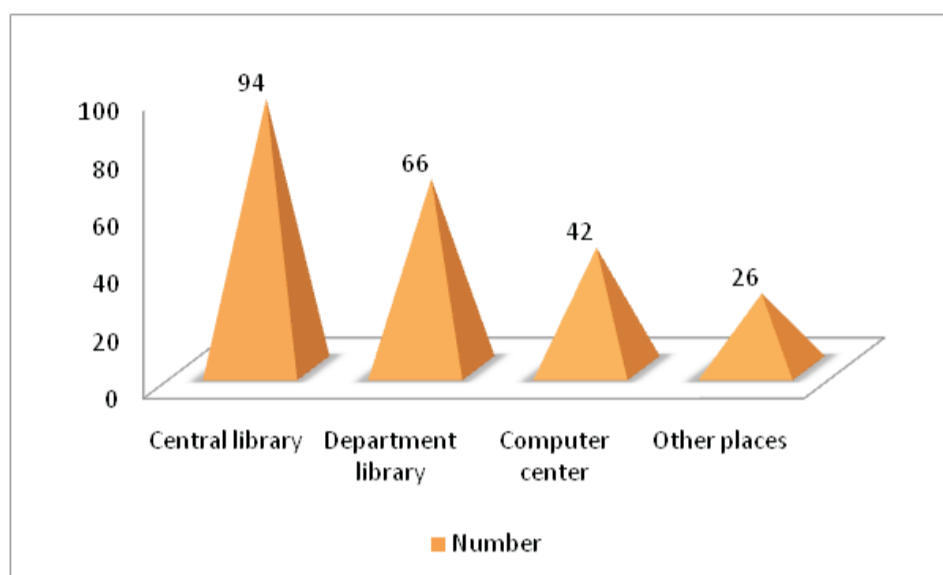


TABLE 11: LINKING PATTERN OF E- JOURNALS

Linking	Number	Percentage
Library website	90	39.47
Search engine	70	30.70
e- journals website	44	19.30
Publisher website	24	10.53
Total	228	100

Table-11 shows how respondents search e-journals. It is clear that most of the respondents 39.47% search e-journals through linking facility available on the library website followed by 30.70 % search engines. 19.30 % of respondents search e-journals through e-journal website. Only 10.53 % of them search e-journals through publisher website.

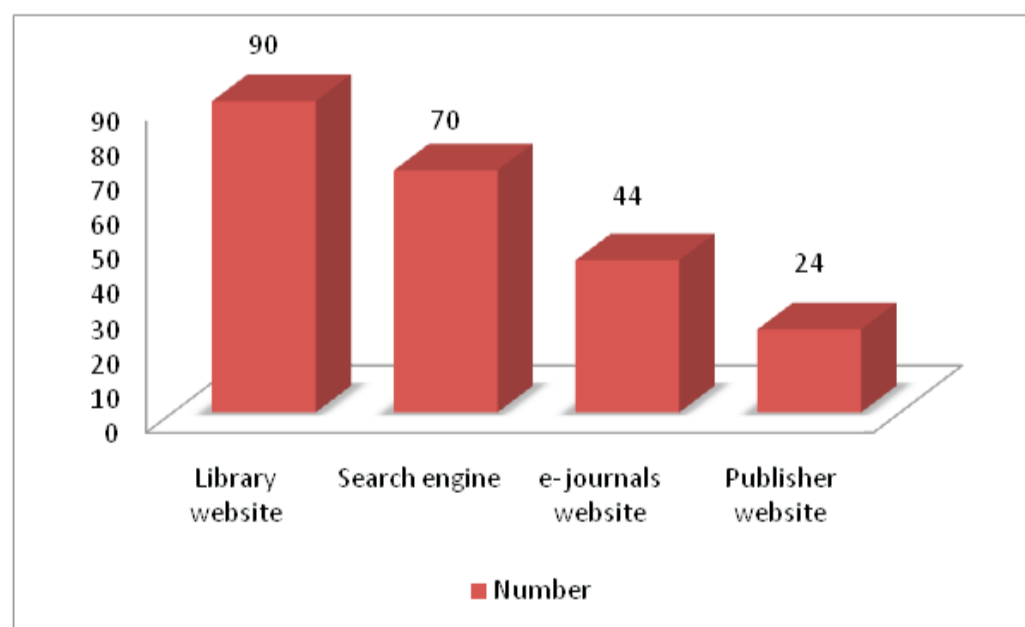
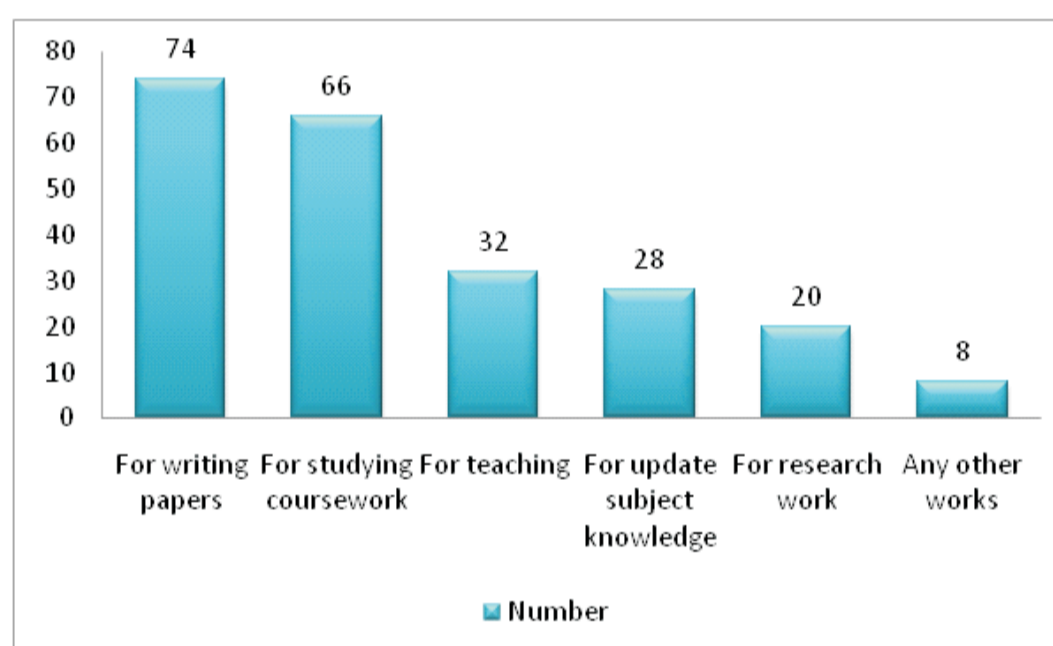


TABLE : 12 PURPOSE OF USING E- JOURNALS :

Purpose	Number	Percentage
For writing papers	74	32.46
For studying coursework	66	28.95
For teaching	32	14.04
For update subject knowledge	28	12.28
For research work	20	8.77
Any other works	8	3.51
Total	228	100



From the table-12, it is clear that most of the respondents 32.46% use e-journals for writing papers. 28.95 % of respondents use e-journals for studying their course work. 14.04% of respondents use e-journals for teaching and 12.28% respondents use for update subject knowledge. 8.77 % of users using e-journals for research work and only 3.51% respondents" use e-journals for other works like entertainment etc.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the various observations and considering users opinion regarding the improvement in e-journal facility, the following suggestions are made.

1. Users should be informed regularly about the new journals subscribed by the library.
2. List of the journals available in the library should be publicized by displaying it on library notice board and on library website to increase the use of e-journals.
3. Orientation/awareness programmes should be conducted at regular intervals for the use of e journals.
4. Library homepage should give users access to the individual journals homepages by hyperlinks, which will help them in avoiding the hassle of remembering the password or the URL.
5. Different levels of user education programmes should be arranged for faculty.
6. Workshops and seminars should be conducted and popular lectures should be arranged in every

department.

7.To increase the interest among users regarding the journals, content pages should be distributed to users through e-mail.

8. CONCLUSION

E-journals are the most important for the faculty members. It is proceed that e-journals saves time of the users. E-journals have both advantages and disadvantages. Electronic journals opened up many exciting opportunities and potentials for academic libraries. The librarians" role has to be redefined in view of technological developments keeping in mind the best interest of users and retrieval efficiency. Library staff should be provided proper training, which will help them acquiring more sophisticated searching and retrieval skills. The staff in the library requires training in handling the e-journals and users need an orientation for using them. Study shows that most of the users choose to use the journal in both formats, print journals are still as popular as e-journals. This study helps the librarian to know the importance of e- journals and it helps them to improve the services related to e-journals.

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