

Use of E-Journals Awareness among Education Faculty Members in Hyderabad

DR.V.RAMA DEVI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

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 Hyderabad 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 200 questionnaires were distributed to the selected sample of Library users; 168 valid samples were collected. The studies found that majority (87.30%) of the male users were aware about the e- journals where as only 73.33 % of female respondents were aware about the availability of e-journals. The analysis reveals that most of the respondents 61.22% use e-journals for writing papers.

Keywords: Education, E-Journals, Library website, File Format, User study.

1. INTRODUCTION

The growth rate in usage of electronic information resources is sufficiently high and if this trend continues for few more years, a time may come when the print versions will get „totally eclipsed“. The coming of the World Wide Web has propelled this vigorous growth of the electronic forms of communication, which simply do not fit into the traditional publishing format. With the coming of the age of the e-journals, the way scholarly communication is disseminated throughout the world has totally altered. Internet is now a huge source of academic, research and general information. Internet facilitates the sharing of information by millions of people and institutions all over the world. It is like a global library that everyone can access at time. It is a global venue where everyone can present their knowledge and information. Earlier library served information in traditional media whereas computers like the information in digital media. In this way Internet is a library that transcends space and media. Internet has become one of the most effective media for selection, collection, storage, management and dissemination of information in the gamut of knowledge. It works round the clock and connects every nook and corner of the globe. It is one of the important services of the information storage and retrieval process, which has reached millions of people. In the 1970s and 1980s, 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.

The emergence of the Internet, particularly the World Wide Web, as a new medium of information storage and delivery represents a revolution which will have a last impact on the publishing and information delivery system in the 21st century. 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.

Presently we are living in knowledge society where information is the key item progress in this age depends largely on front line knowledge / information gained by the society. In this era of information, 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.

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 versions². 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 counterparts.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the present study are as follows.

1. To find out the awareness of users about available e-journals.
2. To study the purpose and utilization of e-journals.
3. To find out the frequency of using e-journals.
4. To find out the hindrances and problems faced by the users while accessing and using e- journals.
5. To study the level of satisfaction of users about availability and coverage of e-journals.
6. To study the preferred format for using e-journals.
7. To study the satisfaction level of users about infrastructure to support the access of e- journals.
8. To suggest suitable recommendations to improve facilities and services related to the use of e-journals.

3. 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 Hyderabad. Questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to the awareness and use of e-journals. For this purpose a total of 200 questionnaires were distributed among education faculty members in and around Hyderabad. Out of 200 questionnaires distributed, 168 valid questionnaires were collected this constitutes 84% of the total response. The collected data were analysed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in form of this paper.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

Analysis of data is the ultimate step in research process. It is the link between raw data and significant results leading to conclusions. This process of analysis has to be result oriented.

| Academic Status | No.of Respondents | Percentage |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Professor | 30 | 16.57 |
| Associate Professor | 56 | 30.93 |
| Assistant Professor | 50 | 27.62 |
| Lecturer | 45 | 24.86 |
| Total | 181 | |

The above table shows that 24.86% Lecturers, 27.62% of the respondents were Assistant Professors, 30.93% Associate Professors and only 16.57% were Professors.

Awareness about E-Journals:

Table: 2. Awareness about E-Journals

| Gender | Aware | NotAware |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| Male | 128(68.08%) | 20(57.14%) |
| Female | 60(31.91%) | 15(42.85%) |
| Total | 188 | 35 |

Table-2 shows the awareness of e-journals among the respondents available through the library. 68.08 % of the male users were aware about the e-journals whereas only 31.91% 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.

Preference Level of Using E-Journals:

Table.3 Preference level of using E-Journals

| Type | Number | Percentage |
|--------------------|--------|------------|
| Electronic Version | 130 | 52.84 |
| Print Version | 54 | 21.95 |
| Both | 62 | 25.20 |
| Total | 246 | 100.00 |

The result reveals that 52.84% of respondents want to access only electronic version of journals whereas only 21.95% users want to read the printed journals but 25.20% respondents want to use both electronic and printed journals.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- Awareness should be created to use e-journals and electronic databases to fulfill information needs.
- To increase the interest among users regarding the journals, content pages should be distributed to users through e-mail.
- Library homepage should give users access to the individual journal's homepages by hyperlinks, which will help them in avoiding the hassle of remembering the password or the URL.
- Workshops and seminars should be conducted and popular lectures should be arranged in every department.
- Different levels of user education programmes should be arranged for faculty.
- The library staff should cooperate with the users and help them in overcoming the technical difficulties faced while using e-journals.

6. CONCLUSION

Electronic journals opened up many exciting opportunities and potentials for academic libraries. E-journals have both advantages and disadvantages. Librarians need to be able to identify and balance the factor that would make e-journals a success in their libraries. Looking at the present situation of information explosion and competency in acquiring it, it is on the part of the library staff to create more awareness about the e-journal availability among the users and provide them a friendly environment so that they can make a better use of the facility. The staff in the library requires training in handling the e-journals and users need an orientation for using them. Library staff should be provided proper training, which will help them acquiring more sophisticated searching and retrieval skills. The librarians' role has to be redefined in view of technological developments keeping in mind the best interest of users and retrieval efficiency. Study shows that most of the users choose to use the journal in both formats, print journals are still as popular as e-journals. Therefore, even in this digitization era, e-journal may not completely replace the existing print version but both will compliment each other to meet the needs of the users. From the above study it is observed that e-journals have become the vital part of information for various needs. E-journals are the most important for the faculty members. It is proceed that e-journals saves time of the users. Lack of training among users and proper infrastructure in the library is a major de-motivating factor in the use of 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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