

IMPACT OF USAGE ON LINE JOURNALS IN SELECTED ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES WITH REFERENCE TO MADURAI & SIVAGANGAI DISTRICT: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

Online journals are also known as e- journals or Electronic journals are also known as e- journals, and electronic serials, are scholarly journals or intellectual magazines. In practice, this means that are usually published on the Web. Electronic journals or E- journals may be defined as any serial publication in digital format and made available on CD-ROM, DVD, Online system and the Internet. The 24x7 availability of the online journals; facility to access the issues form any corner of the world with the help of internet and more importantly as the journals are available online there is no need to bound the issues at the end of the year and preserve it on the shelf for year together has forced the librarians to go for the electronic journals, Readers are also getting addicted to this new form of publication because it saves the time in searching the required information. Journals play a vital role in the research and development activities and undisputedly are considered primary channel of information dissemination. Majority of universities and libraries spend major part of their budget on the subscription of journals.

Keywords: *Online journals, e- journals, Electronic journals, bibliographic data, library users, Mechanical Department, library habit*

Introduction

According to “Harrods’s Librarians Glossary “A journal for which the full end product is available on optical disc, over a network or in any other electronic form is called an e-journal.”

Growth and Evaluation of Electronic Journals

The use of computer for information storage and retrieval activities began in early 1960 in an offline, batch processing, tape-oriented mode. Vast amount of bibliographic data for printing of indexing and abstracting services ware computer processed and then printed. Gradually, computers were increasingly used for phototypesetting and for other operations relating to publishing.

Thus E-Journals play a vital role in the changing scenario of libraries and information others. In 2004, librarian Alireza Noruzi recommended applying Ranganathan’s Five Laws to the web in this paper.

Web resources are for Use

- Every user his or her web resources.
- Every web resource its user.
- Save the time of the user.
- The web is a growing organism.

Characteristics of E-Journals

- Issues include graphics, multimedia or links to other internet resources.
- File structure is hierarchical and uniform.
- E-journals include personalized service such as e-mail alerts.
- E-journals is accessible on web & online archives

Features of E-Journals

Some of the features that electronic journals can provide using the available technology include.

- Linking citations and references to bibliographic databases or to full-text articles
- Links to graphics/photographs, video or audio clippings not included in the paper
- Links to corrections or to later article that cite the paper
- Access to more detailed data or to multimedia information provided by the author
- Links to reader's comments or discussion forums related to the paper.
- Dual publishing in more than one electronic journal.
- E-journals allow remote access;
- Can be used simultaneously by multiple users;
- Provide timely access; Save physical storage space;
- Can be saved digitally.

Merits

- The most important merit of the e-journals is possibility of “consortia” any numbers of libraries can join together and make use of this
- Preservation of e-journals is very easy
- They occupy less space when they are in CD form
- It is very much accessible by multiple users at a time
- Cross-references to the back issues of those particular e-journals are possible
- Speed and worldwide distribution, Powerful search facilities
- Inter-publisher reference linking, An extensive archive of back issues

Demerits

- Everyone cannot have the accessibility only the people who have the accessibility to the computer can use e-journals

- It is not reader friendly, as the readers cannot take it where they want to take
- It involves some licensing issues with the publishers
- It is difficult to access in some situations like system failure, etc.

Objectives of the Study

- To observe the awareness of online journals by the user community
- To know the frequency of using online journals among the user community
- To study the purpose of usage of online journals by the user community
- To analyze the problems faced by the user community while accessing online journals, To determine the level of satisfaction on online journals
- To suggest to improve to access online journals for the library users
- To find out the importance of online journals
- To find out the status of various Information and Communication technology facilities available in the libraries

Sample Design

I have issue 183 questionnaire in three college among them 150 questionnaires are received. However 33 questionnaires were replaced due to incompleteness of answer. Questionnaires are selected on the basis of random sampling. The important facets of the questionnaire are as follows:

- Personal data, Educational status
- Use of online journals and the place for access it
- Purpose of accessing online journals, Problems in accessing online journals

Sampling Technique

For this study Random sampling method was adopted for collecting primary data. A sample including B.E., M.E., faculty members and non-teaching staff.

S. No.	Name of the College	Question distributed	Questionnaire received	Percentage
1	Thiagarajar college of Engineering	60	57	95%
2	Velammal college of Engineering	65	50	76.9%
3	KLN college of Engineering	58	43	74%
Total		183	150	

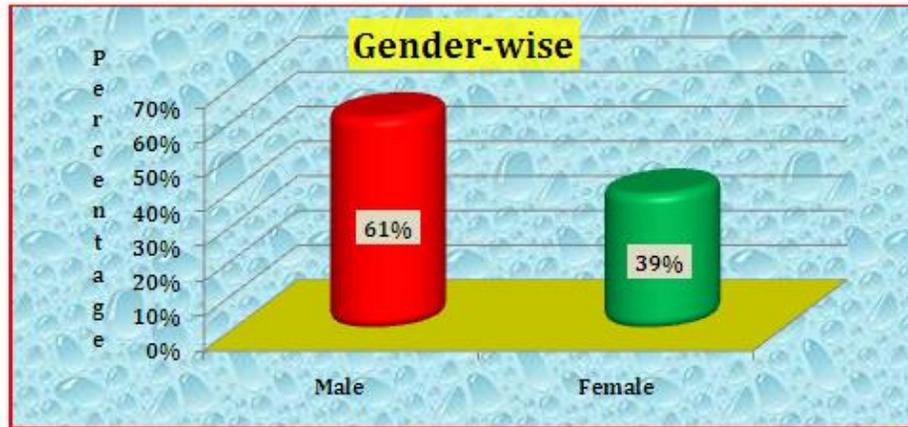
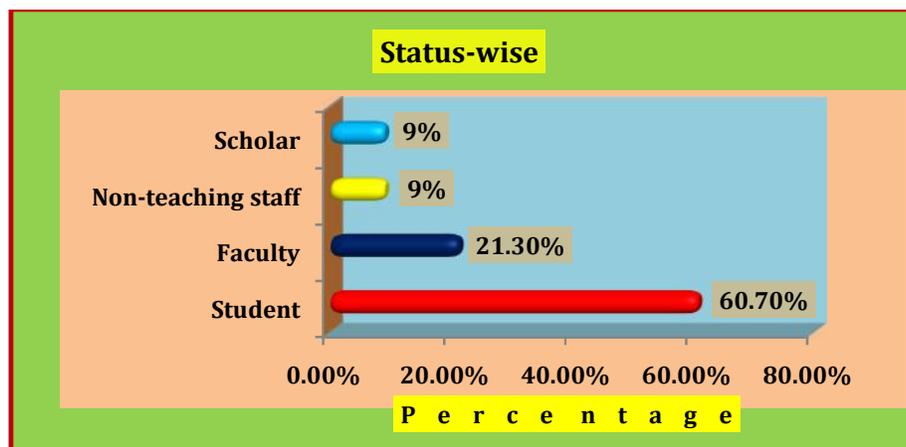


Table 1: Age-Wise Distribution of Respondents

S. No.	Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 20	48	32
2	20-30	63	42
3	31-40	28	19
4	41-50	11	7
Total		150	100

Above Table 1 gives the details about the age wise respondents. 48 (32%) respondents are below 20. This is followed by 63 (42%) respondents belong to age category of 20-30, whereas 28 (19%) respondents belong to age level 31-40. Meanwhile 11 (7%) respondents are age level 41-50. Hence most of the respondents belong to the category of age 20-30 that use the online journals.



Above figure Describes that category wise distribution of respondents. Among the category there are 91 (60.7%) respondents are student. whereas there are 32 (21.3%) respondents are faculty. There are 13 (9%) respondents are non teaching staff. Meanwhile there are 14 (9%) respondents are scholar.

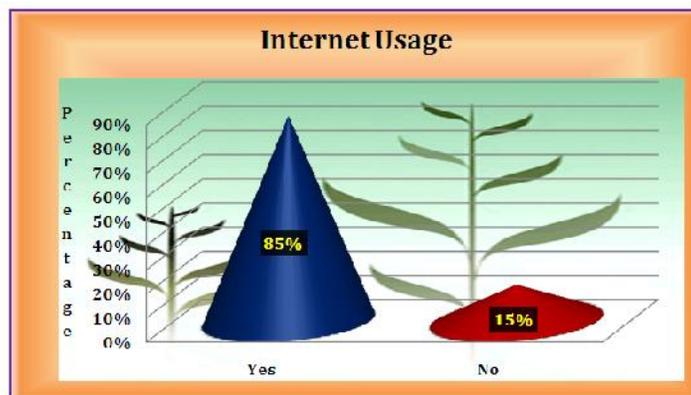


Above figure explains about the residing of the respondents. Among them there are 70 (47%) respondents reside in rural area. The other 80 (53%) respondents reside at urban area. The majority of the respondents reside at urban area.

Table 2: Educational Qualification of Respondents

S. No.	Educational Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	B.E	103	68
2	M.E	31	21
3	M.Phil	9	6
4	Ph.D	7	5
Total		150	100

Table 2 denotes the educational qualification of the respondents. Among them there are 103 (68%) respondents belong at B.E level. Like there are 31 (21%) respondents at the level of M.E. meanwhile there are 9 (6%) respondents belong at M.Phil level. At last there are 7 (5%) respondents belong in Ph.D level.

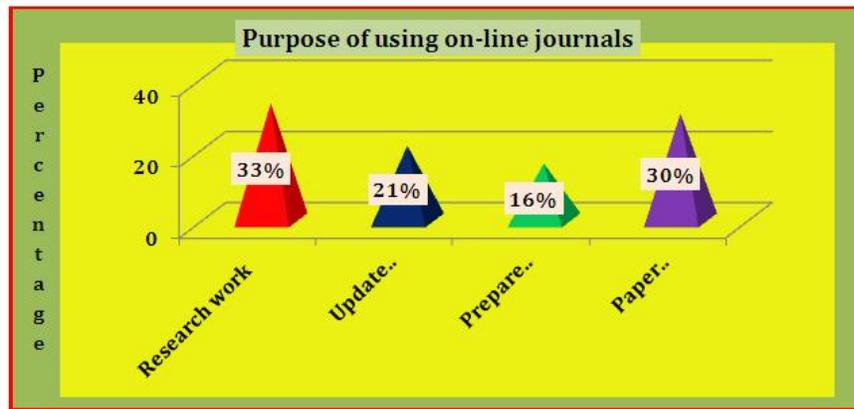


The above figure describes the usage of internet. There are 127 (85%) respondents use internet. Remaining 23 (15%) respondents don't use internet. Hence the most of respondents use internet.

Table 3: Place of Using E- Journals

S. No.	Place	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	College Library	81	54
2	Department lab	42	28
3	Internet cafe	8	5
4	house	19	13
Total		150	100

The data in the above table 3 shows that majority 81 (54%) of respondents use online journals in college library. It's follow by 42 (28%) respondents use in department lab. Meanwhile there are 19 (13%) of respondents in house and only 8 (5%) respondents use online journals through internet café.



Above figure indicate main purpose of using e-journals shows that the maximum number 49(33%) of respondents were using e-journals for their research work. The minimum number 24 (16%) of respondents were using e-journals for prepare examination. It was followed by 46 (30%) of respondents were using for paper presentation/article. Meanwhile there are 31 (21%) of respondents were using for update current information.

Findings, Conclusion and Suggestions

This chapter concludes this research study by summarizing the findings of the study with the implications they present in accessing the online journals by the student, faculty member and non-teaching staff presenting the contribution of this research to knowledge, suggestions for optimum use of online journals and directions for further research.

Summary of Findings

- Majority of the respondents belongs to Mechanical Department
- Majority of the male respondents are access the online journals
- Majority of the respondents are in 20-30 years age group
- 20 (13%) of the students, faculty, scholar and non-teaching staff are married and the remaining 130 (87%) of students faculty, scholar and non-teaching staff are unmarried
- 53% of respondents have hailed from urban area.
- Majority of B.E students are accessing online journals
- Maximum (93%) respondents are visiting the library habit.
- Weekly visit (31%) is the most frequently used library period by the respondents under study.
- 88% of the respondents using the library to spent the time to 1 hour period.

Conclusion

There have been various Medias for the rapid communication of information, but e-journals have been considered as the best media for rapid communication. It not only saves the time but also the space. Insufficient information technology skills and lack infrastructure of the library is an alarming barrier in free flow of e-journals access.

The present study has clearly indicated that, the e-journals become the vital part and highly useful for the research and academic community in the present environment. In which the e-journals has to play a significant role to assist the academic community. To assist the academic community the authorities of the Engineering College library must conduct the user awareness programs to train the research and academic community in the maximum utilization of these e-journals more effectively and efficiently at the three engineering college in Madurai and Sivagangai districts.

Suggestions

- Time of Internet service should be increased so as to users get maximum utilization of this service.
- To be introduced user training programme about e- journals which are available in the digital library to all the students and staff members.
- Library professional must be created the awareness and access of online journal and downloading and printing of journal articles.
- In order to improve the efficiency of the use of accessing e- journals, the library should provide hands on experience, short term course or workshop and conduct user orientation programmes for the students and faculties of the institution.
- To provide the systematic orientation in use- e-journal to overcome the difficulties faced by the user community. This well helps users to know various developments and searching techniques for accessing the desired information.

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