

Awareness and Use Pattern of e- Journals: A Study of Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak

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***Abstract** - The purpose of this paper is to examine the use of e-journals by the research scholars and faculty members of MaharshiDayanand University,Rohtak (Haryana).A survey was designed to collect basic information about the level of use of electronic journals as well as other factors contributing to and associated with their use. A well-structured questionnaire was distributed among research scholars and faculty members to collect the necessary primary data, keeping in view the objectives of the study. From this survey it was found that most of the users are aware of e-journals and they are not only using them for building and updating their knowledge but also for collecting relevant material for their study and research purposes as information can be acquired expeditiously through e-journals.The paper provides suggestions derived from the analysis of data which in turn will help to enhance the use of e-journal services and fulfill the needs and requirements of users.*

Keywords: e-journals, Database, Services, Print and Online, Search engine, Research Scholars, faculty Members, User studies

1. Introduction

Currently we are passing through an era of rapid technology and socio-economic changes and aura of such change make us believe that we are living in an information society. The last four decades has made tremendous impact on the way information is process, stored, retrieve and disseminate. An additional is to know the purpose of visit the library, familiarity with journals use, satisfaction and awareness regarding journals and most used journals, awareness about user awareness programme and subscription model for libraries (Anil, K. and Readdy, P. 2014). Majority of the sources of information uses especially the journals. A journal may be looked upon as an information shell in a subject. Besides being a formal channel of scholarly communication, journals hold crucial significance in research. While studies observe that journals are sought for various reasons including research, current awareness and continuing education, teaching and external communication, journal article have been regarded as a principal source of information with respect to research. Remote access to online journals has been a major boon to academic and research libraries (Thanuskodi, S. K. 2011). Online journals are considered a central feature of any library collection and have become indispensable for research in any field. The quantity of online journals is growing larger and has become a quite visible component of serial publication.

2. About the University

MaharshiDayanand University, ab initio established as Rohtak University, Rohtak, came into existence by an Act No. 25 of 1975 of the Haryana Legislative Assembly in 1976 with the objective to promote inter-disciplinary higher education and research in the fields of environmental, ecological and life sciences. It was rechristened as MaharshiDayanand University in 1977 after the name of a great visionary and social reformer, MaharshiDayanand. It had a unitary and residential character in its nascent stage, but became an affiliating University in November 1978. The University campus, spread over an area of 622 acres, is well laid with state-of-the-art buildings and magnificent road network, presents a spectacle of harmony in architecture and natural beauty. Educational and research programmes are offered through its 38 departments (<http://mdu.ac.in/defaultMatter.aspx?PageId=39>).

3. Vivekanand Library

Vivekananda Library, named after Swami Vivekananda - the illustrious son of the country, has carved a niche for itself in the University firmament. The magnificent library building - a blend of functional structure, elegance and exquisiteness - is centrally located within easy reach from all the Departments/Institutes/Directorates, hostels and residential areas. The University Library possesses a very rich collection of 4,78,823 volumes of books, bound volumes of journals and other reading material, as per details given below, to cater to the informational and scholarly requirements of its patrons. Besides, 366 Indian and 74 Foreign Journals are subscribed in print form for 2017-18. Library provided Online Access to 25,018 e-books purchased from the international publishers; 14,529 e-journals, including 298 Emerald e-journals with content coverage as far back as 1898 (Vol.1 Issue 1), 200 Indian e-journals through the IndianJournals.com portal subscribed by library, complementary access to 37 Sage e-journals, 5,994 e-Journals through e-ShodhSindhu, 7,900+ e-journals through JGate Plus, and 100 Open Access Journals; Shodhganga – an Indian ETD Repository as its members; SCOPUS – an Elsevier database of abstract and citation from 22,800 Science and Social Science Journals and 1,50,000 books published by 5,000 publishers worldwide; Web of Science – having a broad coverage of 20,000+ quality e-journals selected from the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities; Indian Citation Index – a multidisciplinary research platform covering about 1,000 scholarly journals from India; Manupatra – a database of legal documents; four IP based CMIE databases viz., Economic Outlook, Industry Outlook, Prowess and States of India; MLA International Bibliography; DELNET IPC (Pharmaceutical Collection). The Library has taken one step forward to provide access to its users through Remote Access to subscribed contents using Ezproxy – connects library clientele remotely to subscribed electronic resources. Recently, Turnitin&Urkund – similarity check software, are added as a new feather in its cap (http://mdurohtak.ac.in/library/lib_libraryprofile.html).

4. Literature Review

Various studies have been carried out on the use of e-journals in India and abroad. The literature on the use of e-resources and e-journals was studied, and this facilitated the construction of the questionnaire.

Anil and Reddy(2014) investigated that high percentage of research scholars with 43.92 percent use both print and e-journals in all the three universities and there is no significant difference between the men and women research scholars with regard to the form of journals they use frequently for their research work. The majority of the research scholars i.e. 54.61 percent considered that the print journals were very important despite the presence of e-journals and most of the research scholars i.e. 83.90 percent use UGC-INFONET e-journals for their research work. **Thanuskodi (2011)** conducted a study showed that out of the total 160 respondents, 22.50 per cent of them were using online journals daily, and 20.62 per cent of them were using online journals twice a week and above 50 years were using online journals twice a week. The study revealed that the respondents in the age group 31-35 years occupy the first position with respect to their overall linking pattern of online journals. **Dhingra and Mahajan (2007)** conducted a case study revealed that UGC e-journal consortium program get access of about 4000 full text scholarly electronic journals from 25 publishers. The majority of the respondents, 60 percent use e-journals for their research work, and 24 per cent of the users use e-journals for their project work and seminars. The most of the students, 70 percent access e-journals in library, 6 percent access e-journals at their home, and 14 per cent access from the internet café.

5. 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 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. Methodology

Keeping in view the above objectives in mind, a structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data from the users of e-journals in the research scholars and faculty members of Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak(Haryana). Questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to the awareness and use of e-journals. For this purpose, a total of 150 questionnaires were distributed among faculty members and research scholar, out of 150 questionnaires distributed, 120 valid questionnaires were collected and then data was analysed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in the form of this paper.

7. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The filled-up questionnaires received back from the respondents by the investigator were minutely checked and properly categorized and classified. The analysed of data has been done by using SPSS techniques and the data has been presented with the help of table. The finding and conclusions are based on the analysis and interpretation of data.

Table 1: Response from Respondents

Academic Status	Questionnaire Distributed	Questionnaire Received	Percentage
Research Scholars	120	97	80.84
Faculty Members	30	23	19.16
Total	150	120 (100)	100

Table 1 shows that out of 120 questionnaires 97 (80.84%) were received from Research Scholars and out of 30 questionnaires 23 (19.16%) were received from Faculty Members, total 150 questionnaires distributed.

Table 2: Awareness of e-journals

Academic Status	Aware	Not Aware
Research Scholar	82 (84.54)	15 (15.46)
Faculty Members	19 (82.61)	4 (17.39)

Table 2 shows that 84.54 per cent research scholars were aware about e-journals, whereas 82.16 per cent respondents of faculty members were aware about the availability of e-journals. It can see that post-graduate students are more aware about e-journals than faculty members.

Table 3: Purpose of using e-journals

Purpose	Academic Status	
	Research Scholars	Faculty Members
For studying course work	27 (27.83)	2 (8.69)
For update subject knowledge	16 (16.50)	5 (21.7)
For teaching	5 (5.15)	3 (13.4)
For research work	46 (47.42)	12 (52.17)
For writing papers	11 (11.34)	1 (4.34)
Any other works	2 (2.6)	-

From the table 3, it is clear that majority of Research Scholars and Faculty members, i.e. 47.42 and 52.17 per cent use e-journals for their research work. 27.83 per cent of research scholars use e-journals for studying course work, 21.7 per cent of faculty members use of update subject knowledge and 5.15 per cent of research scholars, 13.4 per cent of faculty members use for teaching purposes.

Table 4: Preference level of using Online/Print journal

Preference	Academic Status	
	Research Scholars	Faculty Members
Online Version	34 (35.5)	9 (39.13)
Print Version	25 (25.77)	4 (17.39)
Both	38 (39.17)	10 (43.47)

The result reveals that the majority of research scholars and faculty members want to access both versions of journals whereas only 25.77 and 17.39 per cent respondents want to read from printed journals respectively.

Table 5: Frequency of using e-journals

Frequency	Academic Status	
	Research Scholars	Faculty Members
Everyday	24 (24.74)	5 (21.73)
2-4 times a week	43 (44.32)	9 (39.13)
Once a week	19 (19.58)	7 (30.43)
Occasionally	11 (11.34)	2 (8.69)

Table 5 reveals that most of 44.32 per cent of research scholars and 39.13 percent of faculty members access e-journals 2-4 times a week, whereas i.e. 24.74 and 21.73 per cent of respondent's access everyday, 11.34 and 8.69 per cent of respondents use e-journal occasionally respectively.

Table 6: Linking Pattern of e-journals

Linking Pattern	Academic Status	
	Research Scholars	Faculty Members
Link through library website	31 (31.95)	9 (39.13)
Link through publishers website	12 (12.37)	5 (21.73)
Link through search engine	48 (49.48)	8 (34.78)
Link through online journal website	6 (6.18)	1 (4.34)

Table 6 shows that 49.48 percent of research scholars search e-journals through linking facility available on search engine, whereas 39.13 per cent of faculty members search through the library website.

Table 7: Satisfaction level about infrastructure provided by the library for accessing e-journals

Level	Academic Status	
	Post-Graduate Students	Faculty Members
High Satisfied	27 (27.83)	11 (47.82)
Satisfied	43 (44.32)	6 (26.8)
Average	19 (19.58)	4 (17.29)
Not Satisfied	8 (8.24)	1 (4.34)

A question was asked to know the satisfaction level of infrastructure among the users for accessing e-journals. It was observed that majority of respondents are satisfied with the infrastructure provided by the library for accessing online journals at different level whereas only 8.24 per cent of research scholars and 4.34 per cent of faculty members are not satisfied with the same.

Major finding of the study

1. Majority of users use e-journal every day.
2. Frequency of usage of e-journals is increasing day by day...
3. Majority of users are aware about e-journals.
4. Majority of research scholars and faculty members want to access both versions of journals.
5. Majority of Research Scholars and Faculty members i.e. 47.42 and 52.17 per cent use e-journals for their research work.

Suggestions

1. Increased availability of computer system may increase the use of electronic journals.
2. As lack of training is major hindrance in using e-journals, some training is required by the users for better assessment of e-journals.
3. Awareness should be created to use online journals and online databases to fulfil information needs.
4. More funds should be given to acquire online journals.
5. Information professionals have to help users to create awareness and use of online journals.

Conclusion

In this era of ICT, the quest of users for information has changed. Users prefer or give much more importance to e-journals as compared to their print counterparts. It is a fact that library authorities have become aware of the changes that e-journals have brought to libraries, so they are trying to provide and develop collection development policies that may guide electronic resource management. From the above study, it is observed that online journals have become the vital part of information for various needs online journals. University libraries in India will face with the challenges to meet the user's requirements due to various reasons such as exponential growth of knowledge, price escalation and budget restrictions. Moreover there has been also a continuously change in the information habits and spiralling expectations of users.

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