

Importance of Periodical Literature in Research

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Abstract - *The current study makes an attempt to know the importance of periodical literature in research. Periodical is a primary source of information. Primary sources of information are the first published records of original research and development or description of new application or new interpretation of an old theme or idea. The literature is generally published as periodical articles since periodicals are the best available sources among the primary communicating media for exchange of scientific results. The importance of periodical publication increases as the necessity for going deep, pinpointed and up-to-date knowledge increased. Periodicals are especially important to scholars because they facilitate what is known as scholarly communication. It is very important to be able to interpret periodical citations accurately. To find periodical articles you must use a periodical index. A periodical index gives you citations to articles that have been published in a specific set of periodicals that cover certain subject area(s). Periodical indexes are available in print and computerized format. Hundreds of periodical indexes exist and it's important to choose an index appropriate for your research question.*

Keywords: Periodical literature, Periodical Indexes, Primary sources, Periodical literature, Journals, Magazines, Trade Journals.

Introduction

Periodical is a primary source of information. Primary sources of information are the first published records of original research and development or description of new application or new interpretation of an old theme or idea. These are original documents representing original ideas and constitute the latest available information. Researchers produce new information can make it available to the community through the primary sources. Periodical article is the main medium of communication for the exchange of scientific information.

The literature is generally published as periodical articles since periodicals are the best available sources among the primary communicating media for exchange of scientific results. The importance of periodical publication increases as the necessity for going deep, pinpointed and up-to-date knowledge increased. The periodicals are not only the chief medium for disseminating current information but also served as an important part of a library collection. These are helpful in fulfilling both the objectives of teaching and research

of an organisation. University and Research libraries usually spend more than 75 percent of their total budgets on the subscription of periodicals only, Periodicals, a source of current information have become necessary these days because the results of research being done in different parts of the world are communicated through them (Ravat & Kumar, 2002).

Periodical:

Periodical is a publication such as a magazine, journal or newspaper. They are called Periodicals because they are published at periodic intervals, i.e. daily, weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly. They are extremely important sources of information.

Encyclopaedia of Librarianship defines a periodical as “A publication issued at regular intervals, each issue normally being numbered consecutively and usually dated, within foreseen and to the sequence as publication” (“Periodicals”, 1966).

The Serial

A Serial is the broadest term for Periodicals, journals, magazines, newspapers and Annual publications. Serials are publications issued at intervals over a period of time in successive parts bearing numeric and chronological designations that are intended to be continued indefinitely. They include periodicals but also proceedings, annuals and irregular publications. The terms serials, periodicals, magazines and journals are often interchanged, and their distinctions are not always cleared. Periodicals are publications that are issued frequently at regular intervals. They include magazines, journals and newspapers. The distinction between magazines and journals is small but can be important. Generally magazines are regarded to be of popular interests. Newspapers are different from other current event magazines, except that some come out daily, and come in the familiar news print formats (Tan, 2009).

What is the periodical title?

A publication that is issued under the same title at regular intervals define periodical. Periodical definition of periodical by the free dictionary. Often you will be looking for an article based on a citation found in periodical title of means the name book, magazine, magazine or other reference you've used.

Types of periodicals

A periodical is a type of publication that appears at regular, predictable, short intervals. They include such items as magazines, scholarly or professional journals, industry/trade journals, newspapers, and newsletters.

Sources of Information

According to Grogan (1973) periodicals can be divided as primary and secondary journals. The primary journals devote themselves to report the original research and are also known as ‘recording’ journals. They form the foundation of scientific and technological literature, e.g. Biochemical Journal, Journal of Physiology, Journal of Mechanical Engineering, Molecular Physics. The secondary journals on the other hand, interpret and comment on the research reported in the primary literature. They are called ‘newspaper’ journals, but they make up a

far more heterogeneous collection than the research journals, e.g., Guide to periodical literature, Applied Science and Technology, Current Contents in Science & Technology in India.

E-Journals

Due to digital publishing technologies and internet, the scholarly journals have undergone many changes. The digital technology gave birth the electronic form of journals or e- journal. Apart from publishers, the availability of electronic versions of journals on World Wide Web, led to the emergence of new and modern E-journal service providers. From bibliographic to full-text articles and the citation linking across journals has been another landmark. The digital publication has also shortened time lag between article submission and its publication.

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).

According to Glossary of Librarianship and Information Science, “an electronic journal is a publication, often scholarly, that is made accessible in a computerized format and distributed over the internet” (“Electronic journal”, 2004). According to Harrod’s Librarians Glossary & Reference Book, “A journal which is available in electronic format; a physical, printed version may also be available” (“Electronic journal”, 2005).

Types of E-journals

There are currently two types of electronic journals. The first is offline CDROM Journals and the second is the Online or Internet based journals (Woodward & Mc Knight, 1995).

Features of periodicals:

- Report original research or experimentation, often in specific academic disciplines.
- The targeted audience is the scholarly’ researcher, faculty, and students.
- Articles are written by experts in the field, and are’ signed.
- Articles often use speciali’zed jargon of the discipline, and assume a familiarity with the subject.
- Illustrations are few, and support the text, typically’ in the form of charts, graphs, and maps.
- Often do not include advertisements. Any’ advertisements included would be unobtrusive.
- Most scholarly journals subject articles to the peer’ review process prior to publication.
- Journals that employ the peer review process are also referred to as "refereed journals."
- Articles usually include footnotes or bibliographies’ to other sources, using a standardized citation format.
- Periodicals are typically published quarterly.

The Advantages of Using Periodicals

- Because they are published frequently, periodicals are the best sources for current information.
- Current events are usually discussed in periodicals long before they become the subject of a book.
- Periodicals often contain information on the latest trends, products, research and theories. Periodicals are the best source for ephemeral or very specialized information.
- Periodicals exist for every field and every interest, providing access to a variety of hard-to find information. Due to the shorter length of periodical articles, more topics may be covered within one volume of a periodical than in one book.

Importance of Periodical Literature In Research

In the library catalogs (OPACs) help you find books on a topic. A periodical is publication such as a magazine, journal, or newspaper. They're called periodicals because they're published at periodic intervals, i.e. daily, weekly, monthly, etc. They are extremely important sources of information and are almost always included in research projects on any topic because:

- Periodical articles are more concise and narrowly focused than books. Viewpoints and discussions that don't warrant an entire book can often be found in periodicals.
- Scholarly periodical articles offer references to other books and articles that might be relevant to your topic.
- Periodicals provide a historical record of past ideas, opinions, accomplishments, and social problems.

Periodicals are especially important to scholars because they facilitate what is known as scholarly communication. When researchers want to share their discoveries, scientific findings, or intellectual discussions, they usually publish articles in academic journals rather than books. Scholars and students, therefore, depend upon periodicals to share ideas and learn about recent advances in their field. It is very important to be able to interpret periodical citations accurately. Although the appearance of citations may vary from index to index, they all have a similar structure.

To find periodical articles you must use a periodical index. A periodical index gives you citations to articles that have been published in a specific set of periodicals that cover certain subject area(s). Indexes cover a certain time period only. All of these factors are what's known as the scope of an index. There are 2 types of periodical indexes: general periodical indexes and subject periodical indexes. Periodical indexes are available in print and computerized format. In general, no computerized periodical index includes articles published before 1980. Most computerized indexes offer some or all of their articles in full-text, or at least with an abstract. Hundreds of periodical indexes exist and it's important to choose an index appropriate for your research question.

Conclusion

The role of periodical literature is an amazing one to provide the information for the academic communities. Compared with the books the periodical literature is too short and provides the needed current information in the scrutinized form. Due to the development of Information and communication technologies the periodical literature usage has more vitalized in Research. It enriches the research for the socio-economic developments of the under developing countries.

Periodical publication is a primary source of information containing the first hand information about the research in progress and development or new interpretation of an old theme or idea. Periodicals are considered the most important form of library's collection and enlighten the skilled manpower as well as contribute to the development of R&D oriented nation. The exponential growth of periodical literature has immensely enhanced the need to evolve an effective and foolproof periodical control and management system. Electronic information sources are attracting reader's attention in today's networked environment. Among these sources E-journals open up many exciting opportunities and potential for academic and special libraries. Researcher should be aware of the advantages and disadvantages of E-journals and they should identify and balance the fact that would make E-journals a success or failure in their research.

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