The Reading Habits and Perception of Electronic Periodicals among Students of Selected Engineering Colleges in Hyderabad: A study

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Abstract - In recent years, the role of the Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals are adapting themselves to changing technologies, information atmosphere, and reader's expectations. Library professionals are responsible not only to provide traditional library information services according to the needs of the Library users but also provide modern electronic periodicals and services to them. In recent century, everyone is going through many changes to face the future challenges, LIS profession is also not an exceptional one. Information and Communication Technology has transformed the role of not only librarian but also the library collections in the changing environment. Due to the tremendous growth of information, the libraries have now changed into "digital institutions". Specifically Engineering College Libraries are inevitable to implement the e-Periodicals in its collection system. Today, libraries are having data by networked that is connected to a vast ocean of Internet-based service. Moreover, electronic periodicals relevant to the professions are developing at an unprecedented pace. Procuring of new books, journals, magazines, and abstracting and indexing services are only beginning to become a presence in library collections. Introducing new services in libraries actually means in the first place in implementing electronic services. At present Libraries of all sizes and types are embracing digital collections

Keywords: Electronic Periodicals, E-Books, E- Journals, E-database and ICT

Introduction

"Engineering is the profession in which a knowledge of the mathematical and natural sciences gained by study, experience, and practice is applied with judgment to develop ways to utilize economically, the materials and forces of nature for the benefit of mankind". Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology, They are creating ideas into reality, useful products, and systems with imagination and possibilities. With regard to new technologies applied leading to new connections and outcomes while interacting with the people and environment. In the present days, the role of engineers has been broadened to manage various aspects of organizational competitiveness. With the advent of computers in the digital era, the nature of library services has changed dramatically. Computers are being used in libraries to process, store, retrieve and disseminate information. As a result, the traditional concept of a library is being redefined from a place to access books to one which houses the most advanced media including CD-ROM, Internet, and remote access to a wide range of Periodicals. Libraries have

now metamorphosed into "digital institutions". Library collection management has changed dramatically in the past decade. The widespread use of new digital technology in the publication of information through the Internet. This created a massive shift in the generation of information, its publication and dissemination of electronic information. Gradually the concept of a library has changed very fast due to the impact of information communication technologies. Libraries not only maintained printed collection but also maintained digital collections. They have moved from t h e print- based environment to a digital environment. As the information environment changed rapidly there is widespread availability of electronic Periodicals in libraries. Dissemination of information at low cost and high speed that could not obtain through paper has been achieved. In this study the researcher has selected 18 Engineering colleges part of Telangana to attempt to analyses the use of electronic Periodicals in engineering college libraries, from students of Under Graduate and Post Graduate.

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:

1 Report original research or experimentation, often in specific academic disciplines.
2 The targeted audience is the scholarly′ researcher, faculty, and students.
3 Articles are written by experts in the field, and are′ signed.
4 Articles often use specialized jargon of the discipline, and assume a familiarity with the subject.
5 Illustrations are few, and support the text, typically′ in the form of charts, graphs, and maps.
6 Often do not include advertisements. Any′ advertisements included would be unobtrusive.

7   Most scholarly journals subject articles to the peer' review process prior to publication.

8   Journals that employ the peer review process are also referred to as "refereed journals."

9   Articles usually include footnotes or bibliographies' to other sources, using a standardized citation format.

10 Periodicals are typically published quarterly.

Aim of the study

The rate of increase in the costs of print journals and books continues to be higher than the rate of increase in library budgets as such both of them are directly proportional. The internet and digital publishing technology give us the opportunity to reduce the cost of journals and books. The combinations of institutional repositories, with hard copy, e-journals and e-books are increasing; this will be a change in the mode of communication. Based on the questions and answers between category-wise, e-journals were analyzed with the questionnaires.

Objectives of the study

- To know the use of electronic periodicals by category of students of engineering colleges;
- To identify the purpose of using electronic journals;
- To identify the problems faced while using electronic periodicals;
- To identify the improvement of e-periodicals from the respondents.

Methodology

At present in Hyderabad Region 42 Engineering Colleges are functioning. But the researcher has selected only 10 Engineering Colleges for his study. He has distributed questionnaires among these selected college's library users of UG and PG students on randomly. The filled up questionnaires have been collected from the respondents for the data analysis and interpretation. Out of 1000 questionnaires, 736 (73.66%) questionnaires were recollected and incomplete 8 questionnaires were rejected. For the purpose of convenient research, 728 (72.88%) questionnaires have been selected for analysis. The filled up questionnaires have been arranged for analysis and it was made on the basis of gender and category wise. Simple percentage analysis was made for analysis.

Data Analysis

After the completion of the data collection, the filled in questionnaires were edited properly to make them for coding. After coding, the data were fed into computer and database was created. From the database, the required tables were prepared for further analysis using SPSS 22.0. and presented in the tables.

List of selected engineering colleges of Hyderabad for present study

S.No.	Name of the College	Year of Esta.	NAAC Graded
1	ACE Engineering College	2007	A
2	Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology	1997	A
3	Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology	2005	A
4	Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Engineering and Technology	1997	A
5	Guru Nanak Institutions Technical Campus		A+
6	Institute of Aeronautical Engineering	1997	A
7	Malla Reddy College of Engineering & Technology	2004	A
8	Malla Reddy Engineering College (Autonomous)	2002	A
9	Malla Reddy Engineering College for Women	2007	A
10	Marri Laxman Reddy Institute of Technology and Management	2007	A

Table-1: Gender-wise distribution of respondents

Gender	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Male	338	46.42
Female	390	53.6
Total	728	100%

The Table-1 shows that the majority of respondents are female with 390(53.6%) and 338(6.62%) are male respondents.

1.1 Table-2: Category-wise distribution of respondents

Gender	UG Students	PG Students
Male	262(47.12%)	76(44.19%)
Female	294(53.88%)	96(55.81%)
Total	**556**	**172**

Table-2 indicates the category-wise distribution of respondents, out of 728 respondents, majority of the 294(53,88%) are UG female and 96(55.81%) are from PG female respondents, and 262(47.12%) are UG male and 76(44.19%) are from PG male respondents.

Table-3. Branch-wise distribution of respondents

Branch wise	Frequency	Percentage
Civil Engineering	96	13.19
Mechanical Engineering	120	16.48
Electrical and Electronics Engineering	148	20.33
Electronics Communication Engineering	169	23.21
Computer Science Engineering	181	24.86
other	14	1.92
Total	**728**	**100**

It is evident from the table 3 department wise (or) branch wise analysis of the e-resource users as, 96(13.19%) of the respondents belongs to the Civil engineering department, 120(16.48%) of the respondents belongs to Mechanical engineering.

Table-4: Purpose of using e-periodicals

Purpose	UG Students	PG Students	Total	Percentage
For communication	59	44	103	14.15
to update subject knowledge	89	17	106	14.56
for assignment	97	29	126	17.31
for project work	132	56	188	25.82
for presentation	102	14	116	15.93
for class work	77	12	89	12.23
Total	**556**	**172**	**728**	**100**

Table-4 shows the purpose of using e-periodicals, out of 728 respondents majority 188(25.82%) of the respondents expressed their opinion that they use e-periodicals 'for project work' out 25.82% 132 are UG students and 56 are PG students. Following 116(15.93%) of the respondents 'presentation' purpose, 106(14.56%) use 'to update subject knowledge', 103(14.15%) use 'communication purpose', and remaining 89(12.23%) of the respondents use for 'class work'.

Table-5: Problems faced while using electronic periodicals

Problems	UG Students	PG Students	Total	Percentage
Lack of training	66	12	78	10.71
Databases are not available	97	67	164	22.53
No sufficient systems	146	32	178	24.45
Power fluctuations	127	30	157	21.57
Not enough time	120	31	151	20.74
Total	556	172	728	100

Table-5 indicates the problems face while using electronic periodicals, majority 178(24.45%) of the respondents expressed their opinion there is 'no sufficient systems' for their research, following 164(22.53%) of the respondents say 'databases are not available' for their work, 157(21.57%) of the respondents say there are 'power fluctuations', 151(20.74%) say 'not enough time' and 78(10.71%) of the respondents expressed their opinion there is a 'lack of training'.

Table-6: Suggestions from the respondents to improvement e-periodicals

Suggestions	UG Students	PG Students	Total	Percentage
To be purchased new journals	264	97	361	49.59
Update the OS on systems	98	28	126	17.31
More time for journal search	107	17	124	17.03
More databases should be purchased	87	30	117	16.07
Total	**556**	**172**	**728**	**100**

Table-6 shows the suggestions from the respondents to improvement of e-periodicals, majority of the respondents 361(49.59%) expressed their opinion library should 'purchase

more new journals', 126(17.31%) of the respondents say 'update the OS on systems', 124(17.03%) say they should be given more time for journal search, and 117(16.07%) of the respondents expressed their opinion library should be purchase more databases.

Findings of the study:

- It is observed from the table-1, the majority 53.6% of the respondents are females when compared to male respondents
- Majority of the 53.88% are from UG female and 55.81% are from PG female respondents.
- Majority of the 24.86% are from Computer Science Engineering respondents
- Majority 25.82% of the respondents expressed their opinion that they use e-periodicals for 'project work'
- It is observed the table-5 majority 24.45% of the respondents expressed their opinion there is 'no sufficient systems' for their research
- Majority of the respondents 49.59% expressed their opinion library should 'purchase more new journals'.

Conclusion

Periodicals/journals play a major role in the field of engineering and science technologies. E-periodicals are most important for every engineering colleges as per AICTE norms. Lack of awareness, lack of training among students as well as faculty members and proper infrastructure in the library are major de-motivating factors in the use of e-periodicals. The speed of availability and easy accessibility to information makes the students to use electronic journals/periodicals more frequently.

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