A study on usage of print and electronicjournals among the students of Engineering Colleges in Madurai District

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Abstract

This paper attempts to deal with Students' opinions regarding the usage of print and electronic journals by the students of engineering colleges in Madurai District. This study attempts to find out the familiarity, preference and utility of print and e-journals by the students of engineering colleges in Madurai District. Introduction it deals with the background of study area and information about the print and e-journals, Related Studies its deal with previews studies about the print and e-journals,objectives of the studies deal with aim of the studies. Analysis and interpretation are mainly from the information collected through questionnaire method. This study finds the satisfaction level and preferred print and e- journals. This paper provides few suggestions for the effective use of e-journals among engineering college Libraries. Itprovides the several suggestions for future studies.

***Keywords:** Print journals, e-journals, Engineering Colleges, Madurai*

1.0 Introduction

The electronic sources of information are becoming more and more important for the academic community for their teaching and research. Electronic journals have revolutionized the scholarly and scientific communication since their inception in the late 1980s. The exponential growth of e-journals over the last five years had an impact onScientific Information Providers, Publishers, Libraries and Information Centers. Current developments in e-journals and their institutional licensing and subscriptions arrangements clearly indicate a rapid revolution.

The Libraries first began tracking electronic journals in 1991 and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) published its first directory of electronic journals, which indicated that only 110 online journals and newsletters were peer-reviewed titles. By 2000 the number of refereed electronic journals had dramatically increased to over 4,000. During this decade it can be seen that Libraries and Information Centers are transitioning into hybrid journal collections from traditional print journal collections. The resulting hybrid journal collections provide access either as print-only, or electronic-only, or in both print and electronic formats. Further it facilitates access to selected journals, full text journal articles from aggregator databases.

The users of print and e-journals, especially in academic Libraries, are more concerned about the means and methods in handling those publications because it necessitates utmost care in subscribing to these scholarly journals. This situation has given rise to study how users utilize the print and e-journals.

This paper mainly focuses to identify the Librarian's opinion about the print and e-journals of their users. This study has been limited to select engineering colleges in Madurai district, Tamilnadu.

1.1 Print journals

The term "journals" refers to material which is published in separate parts and at regular intervals. Other terms used to describe this type of material are periodicals, magazines or serials. Journals are important sources of information for subject research. Frequency of publication varies from weekly to annually.

1.1.1 Definition of print journal

A type of periodical which contains signed scholarly articles. Journals are usually published by academic or associations presses and include bibliographies.

1.2 E-journals

Electronicjournals are serial publications, where the end products are available in digital format and whose contents may or may not be peer-reviewed. Two media, such as CD-ROM and the internet, are used for dissemination of these e-journals. According to Ali (2004) "An electronic journal is a publication, often scholarly, that is made available in a computerized format and distributed over the internet". Rich and Rabine (2001) define the "Electronic journal as a

periodical literature that is made available as an individual title via an electronic medium, typically the World Wide Web". To-day the majority of the publishers provides electronic journals and offer them as special services via databases (e.g.) Science Direct (Elsevier), SpringerLink (Springer).

1.2.1 Definition of e –journal

Accreting to all words dictionary.com defines the term E - resources, "Information (usually a file) which can be stored in the form of electronic signals, usually but not necessarily on a computer".

2.0 Related Studies

A number of studies on the use of e-journals in academic Libraries have been carried out during last ten years. The two CALIBER International Conferences 2008 and 2009 focused mainly on electronic resources and their usage in Libraries. **Boyce, *et al*(2004)** examined the impact of electronic journals and changing pattern of reading habit of scholars over the past decade. It has been identified by **Watson (2005)**that majority of Libraries are migrating to electronic format of e-journals from their print journal subscriptions.**Rogers (2005)**pointed out that there has been an increased use of e-journals than that of print journals among faculty and graduate students at Ohio State University. **Raza and Upadhyay (2006)** in their study state that Aligarh Muslim University researchers are satisfied with e-journal available in the Library relatedto their subject of research.

Also many research scholars are consulting e-journals from their departments and computer centers. Their responses revealed that e-journals are used not only for research purposes but also to update their own knowledge.**Liu (2006)**pointed out that electronic sources are more heavily used by students of Computer Science Schools, Business Schools and Library and Information Sciencethan those in Social Sciences. Researchers spend less time per article reading. A strong correlation between the print and electronic journals use has been identified by **Rowlands(2006)**. Further he point out that researchers spend less time in retrieving their requirements in electronic formats, which indicates that the researchers are technically proficient in searching and employ a range of coping strategies to navigate e-resources.

3.0 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study are to find out the opinion of engineering college studentsin Madurai district on usage of print and electronic journals. The main objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the use of print journalvs e-journal collections in the Engineering college Libraries inMadurai District.
2. To identify the preference and purpose of the print journalsand e-journals asfelt by the users.
3. To know the level of satisfaction of users on e-journals.
4. To identify the difficulties encountered by the users, while using the print and e-journals.

4.0 Methodology

The questionnaire was used for this study. The questionnaire has been designed based on the objective .This study attempts to find out the familiarity, preference and utility of print and e-journals by the students of engineering colleges. Among the 101 questionnaires distributed inthe engineering colleges in Madurai District, only74questionnaires(73.36%) were received, the remaining 26 questionnaires wereincomplete.Thus74 questionnaires are used for this study.

4.1 Period of study

The study covers a period of academic year 2014 to 2015. Data related to their period have been collected from the sample respondents.

5.0 Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data collected have been further analyzed.The Demographic characteristics of respondents areshown in Table 1.

Table- 1: Demographic details

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Gender		
Male	43	58.1
Female	31	41.9
Total	**74**	**100**
Age		
Up to 20	07	09.5
21	24	32.4
22	23	31.1
Above 22	20	27.0
Total	**74**	**100**

Source: Primary Data

The majority of the respondents were male (58.1%)compared to female(43%). 24 respondents in bothgender belongs to the age of 21 year (32.4%),and23 were22 years (31.1%) while 20 respondents were above 22(27%). The preference between print and electronic journals has been analyzed and the same is shown in Table 2.

Table- 2: User preferred form of journals

Preferred Form	Respondents	Percentage
Print Only	16	21.6
Electronic only	15	20.3
Both Equally	43	58.1
Total	**74**	**100**

Source: Primary Data

From the Table 2, it can be seen that 43 respondents(58.1%) preferred both print and electronic versionequally where as 15 (20.3%) preferred electronicjournals.Further frequency of use of print and electronic journals has been identified and the sameis shown in Table 3.

Table- 3: Frequency of use of journals

Frequency	Respondents	Percentage
Daily	12	16.2
Once in a Week	32	43.2
Once in a Fortnight	9	12.2
Once in a Month	8	10.8
Rarely	13	17.6
Total	**74**	**100**

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows theFrequency of Use of Journals.43.2% of the respondents use journalsonce in a week. Only 17.6% of the respondentsuse journals rarely.

Average time spend by the usersin a day on journals has been tabulated and the sameis shown in Table 4.

Table- 4: Average time spent by the users on use of journals

Frequency	Respondents	Percentage
One hour	24	32.4
Between 1 to 2 hour	29	39.2
Between 2-3 hour	14	18.9
Above 3 hour	7	9.5
Total	**74**	**100**

Source: Primary Data

This table shows theAverage Time Spent by the Users on Use of Journals. In this study,32.4 % of the respondents spend one hour on use of journals and 39.2% respondents spend 1-2 hours in the use of journals. On an average onehour hasbeen spend by the users in a day. Similarly the purpose usage of journal has been identified and the same is shown inTable 5.

Table- 5: Purpose of using of journals

Purpose	Respondents	Percentage
Course Related	23	31.1
Teaching Related	10	13.5
Research Related	23	31.1
Projects, Writing Articles, To update knowledge, etc	18	24.3
Total	**74**	**100**

Source: Primary Data

This table displays the Purpose of Using of Journals. Among the 74 respondents, 31.1% respondents use journals fortheir coursework and Research work as well,24.3% for Projects, Writing Articles, to update knowledge etc.

Table- 6: Opinion regarding user's satisfaction on journal

Satisfaction Level	Respondents	Percentage
Excellent	23	31.1
Good	26	35.1
Moderate	19	25.7
No Opinion	6	08.1
Total	**74**	**100**

Source: Primary Data

Attempts were made to know the satisfaction levelof the users of Journals. The responses received fromthe students are presented in Table 6. The overallsatisfaction of the use of e-journals is good 26 (35.1%).Few respondents have no opinion of impression.Problemsfaced bythe users while using e-resources is detailed in Table7.

Table- 7: Difficulties encountered by the users

Difficulties Encountered	Respondents	Percentage
Slow Speed Connectivity / PCs & Others	32	43.2
It takes too long to view/download web pages	12	16.2
Overload of Information on the Internet	17	23.0
Lack of Knowledge / Training on Use of Web resources	13	17.6
Total	**74**	**100**

Source: Primary Data

This table describes the Difficulties Encountered by the Users. In this studymost of the users (43.2%) users face problems when accessing e-resources due to slow speed of internet connectivity and 23.0% of users felt overload of information on the internet, and 16.2% users said that they face problems during down loading. Only 17.6% users opined that they face problems due to lack of training on use of e-resources.

6.0 Findings

The following are major conclusions of the presentsurvey.

a) The majority of the respondents were male (58.1%) compared to female.
b) (32.4%) of the respondents in both gender are of 21 years.
c) 43.2% respondents use e-journals once in a week.
d) 32.4 % of users spent one hour on use ofe-journals.
e) 62.2% of respondent's use the journals for course workand research purpose.
f) The overall satisfaction of the use of e-journals(35.1%) is good. Few respondents have no opinion.
g) Most of the users (43.2%) face problems whenaccessing e-resources due to slow speed of internetconnectivity. Only 17.6% users felt that it was that due to lack oftraining.

7.0 Suggestions

On the basis of the response and opinion given bythe respondents some of the important suggestions havebeen made and this will help in the effective use of the journals.

a) The Library should organize regular workshops forenhancing usage of e-journals and for helping the usersin accessing, downloading and printing of journalarticles.
b) User studies should be conducted to determineuser's needs andfor identify the user's problem. Feedback systemsmay help to observe the use of e-journals.
c) Engineering College Libraries should initiate action to popularizethe concept of open sources, virtual, electronic, anddigital Libraries among the users through orientation /user education programs.
d) Various methods need to be explored in order to makethe e-resources visible. Traditional methods such aspersonal visits and training workshops need to becontinued.
e) Printed brochures, posters, newsletters are effective increatingawareness and provide the much needed publicity.

8.0 Conclusion

Majority of the academic community use electronicinformation sources. However most of the users still opt to use both printsources as well as electronic information sources. Somany problems are faced by students butoverall, most users are satisfied with the use andaccessibility of e-journals. Finally the impact ofpromotional activities needs to be measured regularly byexamining usage statistics, surveys and conducting usermeets.

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