Electronic Journals at SCEM, Mangalore: A Survey

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Abstract

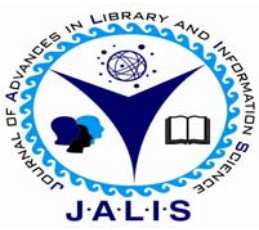
The present study aims to explore the usage of e-journals among the students of Sahyadri college of Engineering & Management at Mangalore. A total 100 well-structured questionnaires were distributed to the students of undergraduate and post graduates out of which 98 were returned dully filled in and the overall response rate was 98.00 percent. The results revealed various issues such as user's needs, frequency and purpose of visit, awareness, method of learning, location of accessing, purpose of using e-journals, problems faced while accessing e-journals and user satisfaction level, speed of internet connection, provision of easy access to e-journals, use of search engines and orientation and training programmes needed for the students.

Keywords

E-Journals; user study; User behavior; Library resources; Information seeking; User survey; web resources.

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INTRODUCTION

Journals constitute an important part of a library collection being the most important vehicle for global scholarly communication. Tremendous developments in ICT in the recent years have given amazing boost to electronic publishing. As a result the information which is being generated at intense pace from all the directions worldwide for all the themes is now being published in form of electronic journals (e-journals). E-journals are global information highways, so these are being added to library collections at exponential rates. Libraries are doing extensive work to make e-journals available to their users and keeping them abreast with latest developments in their field of interest. Access to e journals is generally provided either by the publisher or through their aggregators. E-journals can be accessed round the clock across geographical barriers, which make e-journals omnipresent. The most fortunate thing about e-journals is that both libraries and users can conquer the problems of missing issues and delay in receiving the issues. To summarize, it can be clearly said that e-journals are truly a dream come true both for the librarians and users. Consequently libraries are now persuaded to subscribe to e-journals from a vast variety of publishers and providers.

In recent years, electronic journals are in common use in scholarly communication and we can interpret this situation in various ways. One of main functions of the college is the creation and dissemination of new knowledge by education and research. The journals are available in print as well as electronic formats. The user survey study is essential to improve the existing library services, plan new services, rationalise the limited financial resources in an economic way, evaluate the performance of the library and further enhance the use satisfaction. The aim of the present study is to conduct a survey on the students of Sahyadri college of Engineering & Management library for ascertaining their dependency on electronic journals for their education, research, and other academic pursuits and gauge their level of satisfaction.

The SCEM library is subscribing to 116 technical journals (Indian and International) in the print form. At the same moment, SECM is exploring digital environment for better and fruitful delivery of information in the form of e-journals. The electronic journal service was introduced in the library in 2008, at that time SCEM library was providing access to

more than 1000 electronic journals of INDEST AICTE Consortium Springer link. At present SCEM library is providing electronic access to more than 5000 journals published by learned societies as well as commercial publishers. Our college is one of the member institution of DELNET Data base.

Table 1: Journals Accessible Electronically

Sl. No	Database	No. of Journals Accessible
1	IEEE	97
2.	Wiley	18
3	Springerlink	49
4	Proquest	4088
5	**Delnet databases** Union catalogue of books	1,43,96,878 records
	Union list of Journals	35,972 records
	Union catalogue of journals	20,235 records
	Articles database	9,12,042 records
	Union list of CD-ROMS	22,234 records
	Database of Theses and Dissertations	70,293 records
	Union list of video records	6,000 records
	Union list of sound-recordings	1025 record

At SCEM users are provided with a secured and hassle-free long on procedure via IP (Internet Protocol) activation and Wi-Fi enabled with the campus. Users can access all the electronic resources through the Institute's IP ranges. This arrangement helps the user to access all the electronic resources immediately. This also keeps them free from memorizing user ID, Password, Publishers URL et. All the resources are available through campus wide network, but this arrangement restricts access to electronically available journal titles from within the SCEM campus only.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dillon and Hahn (2002) in the study on readiness of researchers on the electronic only journal collection, investigated the frequency of using scholarly journals (both print and electronic), and other electronic format used for accessing information at the University of Maryland. The study revealed increased level of adoption of e-journals among faculty, giving support to multiple formats for core disciplinary journals, and the differing perceptions of various constituencies among the respondents. The results provide collection managers with a better understanding of which journals make good candidates for initial adaption to electronic only if archiving concerns can be addressed. Hiom (2004) during her research found out that now-a-days students are more dependent on online journals for their research work and for satisfying their information needs. Madhusudhan (2008) is of opinion that e-journals perform an increasingly important role in research. His study showed that there is an ever increasing demand for subscription of amore e-journals titles. There appears to be some need for academics to be provided with training in using e-journals, Majority of the respondents strongly attest to the fact that they need proper training/orientation for searching e journals. Naushad Ali, P M and Faizul Nisha, (2011) reveal that more than 60 per cent of users in the Central science Library are using e-journals weekly for the purpose of research. Printed journals are consulted by the majority of users compared with e-journals. Keyword is the most popular search method for searching e-journals among research scholars, whereas the date of publication carries the least percentage among all the options. However, if is found that slow downloading of PDF files is the major problem that would discourage users while sing e-journals. Velmurugan C (2013) study revealed various issues such as analysis of user's needs, speed of internet connection, provision of easy access to e journals, use of search engineers, and orientation and training programmes for students and staff members.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the frequency and purpose of students visiting the library
- To know the awareness & purpose of using e-Journals by the student community.
- To identify the problems encountered while using e- journals
- To determine the level of satisfaction of users in using e- journals
- To suggest suitable suggestions to improve the use of e-journals

SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The topic selected for the present study use of e-journals at Sahyadri College of Engineering & Management, Mangalore (SCEM). The scope of the study limited to the use of e-journals by the students of SCEM library.

METHODOLOGY

To collect the primary data from the respondents a structured questionnaire is prepared keeping in view of the objectives of the study and administered among 100 user of the library, out of which 98 were returned back. The analysis is based on the responses received from the above said users.

DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Table 2: Qualification- wise Respondents

Sl.NO	Responses (Course wise)	No of Respondents	%
1	BE	69	70.41
2	M.Tech	7	7.14
3	MBA	16	16.33
4	MCA	6	6.12
Total		**98**	**100**

The above table indicates that majority 69 (70.41) of the respondents are BE students 7(7.14%) are M.Tech Students 16(16.33%) are MBA Students 6(6.12%) are MCA students. It is interesting to note that the BE student respondents are very high.

Table 3: Frequency of Visit to the Library

Sl.No	Frequency	Response	%
1	Daily	18	18.37
2	3-4 times in a week	28	28.57
3	Once in a week	35	35.71
4	Occasionally	17	17.35
Total		**98**	**100**

Table 3 indicates that the maximum 35(35.71%) of respondents visit the library once in a week and the minimum 17 (17.35%) of respondents visit the library occasionally. It was followed by 28 (28.57%) of respondents use the library 3-4 times in a week and only 18 (18.37%) of respondents use the library daily.

Table 4: Purpose of Visit the Library

Sl. No	Purpose	No. of Respondents	%
1	Issue/Return of Books/ to collect reading materials	117	63.59
2	Read News papers/Magazines	36	19.56
3	To access internet	7	3.81
4	To read journals	6	3.26
5	Consult reference document	13	7.06
6	Do research/find article and information	5	2.72
Total		**184**	**100**

Multiples answers are received.

From the above table no. 4 shows that the main purpose of the maximum 117 (63.59%) respondents are to use the library for issue/return/collect reading materials. The minimum number 5(2.72%) of respondents were using the library for the purpose of research/find article and information. It was followed by 36 (19.56%) to read news papers, 7(3.81%) to access internet, 6(3.26%) to read journals and 13 (7.06)% are to consult reference document.

Table 5: Awareness of e-journals

Sl. No	E-Journals	Response	%
1	IEEE	42	35.60
2	Springer link	9	7.63
3	Wiley	5	4.23
4	Proquest	21	17.80
5	Freely available e-journals such as Google etc.	41	34.74
Total		**118**	**100**

Multiples answers are received

Table 5 shows that maximum respondents 42 (35.60%) are aware of IEEE e-journals and minimum respondent 5(4.23%) are aware of using Wiley e-journals. And it was followed by 9(7.63%) are aware of spring link, 21 (17.80%) are aware of using Proquest and 41 (34.74%) of respondents are aware of freely available e-journals or open access e-journals.

Table 6: Method of Learning to browse the e-journals

Sl.No	Description	Response	%
1	By self	30	22.56
2	Guidance from the faculty	21	15.79
3	Guidance from the friends/colleagues	39	29.32
4	Guidance from the library staff	43	32.33
Total		**133**	**100**

Multiples answers are received

E-journals are published entirely electronically, for access via a web-browser, so, skills are necessary to access these. Table 6 indicates the most popular method of acquiring the necessary skills to sue e-journals. It is summarized that 43(32.33%) respondents acquired necessary skills from guidance given by the library staff and 39(29.32%) used the guidance given by friends/colleagues,21(15.79%) used by the guidance of the faculty members and 30(22.56%) users acquired this skill by self-thought.

Table 7: Purpose of using e-Journals

Sl. No	Purpose	No. of Respondents	%
1	To keep up with developments in my own field/Preparing notes	33	26.61
2	For research / find articles and information	19	15.32
3	To keep up to date in the subject	21	16.94
4	Preparing seminars /project	51	41.13
Total		**124**	**100**

Multiples answers are received

Respondents were asked to indicate their main purpose of using e-journals. From the above table no. 7 it is seen that the maximum number 51 (41.13%) of respondents were using e-journals for preparing seminars and projects. The minimum number 19 (15.32%) of respondents were using the e-journals for research and find articles. It was followed by 33 (26.61%) for keep up with developments in their field and preparing notes, and 21 (16.94%) users are for to keep up to date in the subject.

Table 8: Location of Use of E-Journals

Sl. No	Location	No. of Respondents	%
1	From the library	61	58.65
2	From the Department/ computer lab	21	20.19
3	At home	22	21.16
Total		**104**	**100**

Multiples answers are received

The data in the above table 8 shows that majority 61 (58.65%) of respondents were using e-journals by central library of college campus. It was followed by 21(20.19%) of respondents were by department/computer lab and 22(21.16%) of respondents were using e–journals at home**.**

Table 9: Problems faced while using e-Journals

Sl. No	Problems	No. of Respondents	%
1	Limited computers	24	17.14
2	Low speed	18	12.86
3	Lack of adequate knowledge in using	29	20.71
4	Difficulty in finding relevant information	14	10.00
5	Required password not known	4	2.86
6	Access has been restricted to campus only	30	21.43
7	The e-journal interface has been difficult to navigate	4	2.86
8	The college library does not have a subscription to the required titles	17	12.14
Total		**140**	**100**

Multiples answers are received

The study aimed to know about the problems faced while using e-journals. Table 9 indicates that 30(21.43%) of respondents have faced the major problem of access has been restricted to campus only. It was followed by 29(20.71%) of respondents who indicates lack of adequate knowledge in accessing, 24(17.14%) respondents having limited computers, 18(12.86%) respondents having low speed,17 (12.14%) respondents having the college library does not have a subscription to the required titles and only 4 (2.86%) of respondents having e-journal interface has been difficult to navigate and required password not known.

Table 10: Satisfaction of available e-Journals

Sl. No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	%
1	Very satisfied	8	8.16
2	Satisfied	48	48.98
3	Somewhat satisfied	39	39.80
4	Dissatisfied	3	3.06
Total		**98**	**100**

The above table 10 shows that the majority 48(48.98%) of respondents were satisfied about the available e-journals. It was followed by 39(39.80%) of respondents were somewhat satisfied, 8(8.16%) of respondents were very satisfied and only 3(3.06%) of respondents are dissatisfied.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Based on the analysis of the survey data, the findings of the survey are:

- Majority of Respondents 70.41 % are BE students
- Majority of the respondents 35.71 percent are visiting the library once in a week
- Majority of the respondents 63.59 percent visit the library to borrow & return books/collect reading materials.
- 35.60 percent of the respondents are aware of IEEE journals
- 32.33 percent of the respondents were aware of the e-journals through the guidance from the library staff
- Majority of the respondents 58.65 percent are accessing the e-journals in the library.
- Majority of the respondents 41.53 percent using e-journals for preparing seminars /projects.
- Majority of the respondents 21.43% are facing the problem of accessing the e-journals since access has been restricted to campus only.
- 48.98 percent of the respondents are satisfied with the available e-journals in the library.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the study, the following suggestions were made:

- The College must introduce user education programme about e-journals. Regular training programmes are to be arranged for using the electronic journals for new comers.

- Need of more trained and skilled staff, who are well aware of the functioning of both software and hardware, and who can help the users in areas like accessing, downloading, and proper exploitation of the e-journal services.

- A considerable percentage of users are dissatisfied with the electronic journals available in college library for their needs. Hence, numbers of journals available through consortia should be increased to access more journals in their respective fields. To reduce the slow speed, bandwidth need to be increased as most of the users felt that downloading of e- journal articles is slow.

- Use statistics are a vital part of evaluating the usefulness of any product. There should be a continuous feedback mechanism in the form of user surveys to know the responses of the users, so that further action can be planned accordingly.

- Accessing e-journals by students primarily takes place outside the library. It is therefore appropriate for the library to consider the implications of this in the communication processes with the library's user's community.

- More computers/terminals should be installed in the library with latest specifications and multimedia so the users can use Internet, e-resources and e-journals and other useful services of the internet effectively.

The first and foremost necessity is to create awareness among users about the advantages and potentials of e-journals. This will encourage more and more users to explore the prospective of e-journals. For this purpose library has to market properly their e-journal services. The help of faculty could be taken so as to engage them for spreading the awareness about the e-journals.

CONCLUSION

Since its establishment, SCEM is rendering library services to its users resourcefully. The findings derived from the study are based on a sample of 98 users. So although the finding cannot be generalized but these provide significant insight into the latest trends being followed in sphere of e-journals. The use of e-journals is an evolving phenomenon at this stage as e-journals are slowly replacing the print versions of scholarly publications. The survey clearly indicates that use of e-journals in the SCEM is still in the state of infancy or early maturation. It is also indicated in the survey that this state of infancy is because of lack of marketing strategies to make all the users aware of full range of e-journals available. The results of the study offer significant information on the level of awareness and user perception in the use of e- journals in Sahyadri College of Engineering and Management library.

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