Awareness and Usage of Electronic Journals among Undergraduate Students in Madanapalle Institute of Technology & Sciences (MITS), Madanapalle, A.P: A Study

Y.CH. Venkateswarlu
Librarian
Madanapalle Institute of Technology & Sciences, Madanapalle, A.P

Abstract

The present study aims to explore the usage of library information resources among the students of Madanapalle Institute Of Technology & Sciences, A total of number 175 (distributed 25 questionnaire in each department) well-structured questionnaire was distributed to the students of undergraduates out of which 126 were returned dully filled in by the user's community and the overall response rate was 72.00 percent. Percentage analysis was used to analyze the data which are obtained and descriptive analysis was used to interpret the results. The results revealed that various issues such as analysis of user's needs, speed of Internet connection, provision of easy access to e-journals, use of search engines, and orientation and training programmes for students and staff members.

Keywords

E – Journals, Electronic serials, Scholarly journals, Library Resources, Information seeking, User survey,
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Electronic access

The journal is available at www.jalis.in

Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science
ISSN: 2277-2219 Vol. 4. No.2. 2015. pp. 147-151

INTRODUCTION

Electronic journals are also known as e-journals, e-journals, and electronic serials, are scholarly journals or intellectual magazines that can be accessed via electronic transmission. In practice, this means that they are usually published on the Web. Electronic journals or e-journals may be defined as any serial publication (such as journal, magazine and newsletter) in digital format and made available on CD-ROM, DVD, online systems and the Internet. Some electronic journals are online-only journals; some are online versions of printed journals, and some consist of the online equivalent of a printed journal, but with additional online-only (sometimes video and interactive media) material. Most electronic journals are published in HTML and/or PDF formats, but some are available in only one of the two formats.

DEFINITION OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

According to CONSER (2004) (The Cooperative ONline SERials cataloging program), A remote access electronic serial is a continuing resource that is accessed "via computer networks". It is issued in a succession of discrete parts usually bearing numbering, and has no predetermined conclusion. This is in contrast to direct access electronic resource which is issued on a physical carrier such as CDROM or floppy disks. According to Chan (1999), E-journals are often referred to interchangeably as "electronic publishing", "electronic serials", "online journals" and "electronic periodicals". According to Smith (2003) defines e-journal as 'any journal that is available online, including both electronic only journals, and journals that are available both electronically and in print'. According to Bombak et al. (1992) define e-journal as 'a publication whose primary means of delivery to subscribers is through computer files.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

It seems that the few libraries that are subscribing to e-journals are not aware of issues such as analysis of user's needs, speed of Internet connection, adequate workstations with Internet connections in the library, provision of easy access to e-journals, and orientation and training programmes for students and staff members. To investigate these issues, the authors therefore conducted a study to analyze the organisation and management issues of e-journals in Madanapalle Institute Of Technology & Sciences

(MITS), Madanapalle, A.P. Montgomery (2000) in a case study indicated that with few exceptions, if a journal is available electronically, only the electronic version is purchased whenever possible. As a case in point, the W.W. Hagerty Library of Drexel University made migration to an e-journal as quickly as possible with a key component of its strategic plan in 1998. Abdulla (2005), In 2002/2003, the Libraries Deanship of United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) made a commitment to cancel printed journals and migrate to all e-journals collection. Islam, M.S. & Chowdhury, M.A.K (2006), have conducted the study about electronic journals (e-journals), their subscribers, management issues and necessities from the Bangladesh perspective. An attempt was made to explore the infrastructural facilities and the existing problems of libraries and information centres that are subscribing to e-journals. The study also discussed the status of e-journal usage and accessibility in selected libraries and information centres, as well as advantages, limitations and prospects for e-journals in the context of this country. Finally, it was suggested that there is a need to establish a workable and sustainable consortium among libraries and information institutions in Bangladesh.

Madanapalle Institute of Technology and Science (MITS) A.P.: A Profile

Madanapalle Institute of Technology & Science was founded in 1998. MITS, originated under the auspices of Ratakonda Ranga Reddy Educational Academy under the proactive leadership of Sri. N. Krishna Kumar M.S. (U.S.A), President and Sri. N. Vijaya Bhaskar Choudary, M.Com, (Ph.D)., Secretary & Correspondent of the Academy. MITS is governed by a progressive management that never rests on laurels and has been striving conscientiously to develop it as one of the best centers of Academic Excellence in India. The Institute offers 4 Diploma courses and 5 Undergraduate programs and 5 Postgraduate programs. Eight (8) of the departments are recognized as a research centre by Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Anantapur, A.P. MITS affiliated to JNTUA, Anantapur and approved by AICTE, New Delhi. All the departments are accredited by National Board or Accreditation, New Delhi. MITS recognized by UGC under the section 2(f) and 12 (B) of the UGC act 1956 to eligible to receive central assistance.

The MITS Central Library

The Library with its modern collection of knowledge resources and innovative information services provides the required learning resources to students, faculty. The Library related to Engineering, Technology, Management and allied subjects. The collection comprises of 48,480 volumes of books with 7,380 titles, 103 National and International printed Journals and Subscribe E-Resources like IEEE, Springer, Elsevier, J-Gate, ASME and Mc Graw Hill. In addition, there are 2000 bounded volumes of Journals, 3,500 Compact Discs (CD's), 75 Video Cassetts and 1,200 Standards (IS). All the operations of Library are automated using SOUL 2.0 (Software for University Libraries) software. DELNET Database, UGC-N-List, Galileo Integrated Digital Library and E-books, Inter and Intranet facilities, etc. are available in the Library. There is campus wide networking with a brand-width of 1Mbps in the college. All the faculty members and students can access e-resources from their respective departments.

OBJECTIVES

- To observe the awareness of Electronic Journals by student community;
- To know the frequency of using Electronic Journals among the students;
- To study the purpose of usage of Electronic Journals by the user community;
- To analyze the problems faced by the students while accessing E- Journals.
- To determine the level of satisfaction on Electronic Journals;
- To suggest to improve to access Electronic Journals for the pupils.

SCOPE, LIMITATION AND METHODOLOGY

This study of the research used questionnaire- based survey method. The data were well checked and analysed for data analysis. The scope of the paper is to the students of engineering education from among seven departments and the study was limited to students from Madanapalle Institute Of Technology & Sciences, Madanapalle, A.P. A total of number 175 (distributed 25 questionnaire in each department) well-structured questionnaire was distributed to the students of undergraduates out of which 126 were returned dully filled in by the user's community and the overall response rate was 72.00 percent. Percentage analysis was used to analyze the data which are obtained and descriptive analysis was used to interpret the results.

DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The study has been conducted at Madanapalle Institute Of Technology & Sciences, Madanapalle, A.P during the period of 2014. This study was undertaken to investigate the library information resources with special reference to electronic journals which are available in the central library used by the student community at Madanapalle Institute Of Technology & Sciences, Madanapalle,A.P

Table 1:Gender-wise Respondents

Sl. No	Response	No. of respondents	%
1	Male	41	32.54
2	Female	85	67.46
Total		**126**	**100**

The above table indicates that majority 85 (67.46 %) of the respondents are female and the remaining are male. it is interesting to note that the female respondents are very high.

Table 2 : Distribution of Questionnaires

Sl. No	Departments	Questionnaire Distributed	%	Questionnaire Received	%
1	Computer science	25	13.49	17	9.71
2	Information technology	25	11.90	15	8.57
3	Mechanical Engg	25	19.84	25	14.29
4	Civil engineering	25	15.08	19	10.86
5	Basic Sciences	25	9.53	12	6.86
6	Electrical and Electronics Engg	25	11.11	14	8.00
7	Electronic Communication Engg	25	19.05	24	13.71
Total		**175**	**100**	**126**	**72.00**

It was found that the majority 25 (14.29 %) of respondents were interested to fill the questionnaire whereas only 14 (8.00%) of respondents were least interested and out of which 126 were returned dully filled in by the user's community and the overall response rate was 72.00 percent.

Table 3: Awareness about using E- Journals

Sl. No	Description	No. of respondents	%
1	Aware	98	77.78
2	Not aware	24	19.05
3	No Idea	04	03.17
Total		**126**	**100**

It revealed that from the Table no. 3, it clearly indicates that out of 126 respondents 77.78 % were well aware about E- Journals and it was followed by 19.05 % of respondents were not aware of it and only 3.17 % of respondents were no idea about the use of E - Journals.

Table 4: Frequency of Using E- Journals

Sl. No	Frequency	No. of respondents	%
1	Daily	14	11.11
2	Once in Two days	36	28.57
3	Once in a week	67	53.18
4	Occasionally	9	7.14
Total		**126**	**100**

Table 5 indicates that the maximum 67 (53.18 %) of respondents access electronic journals once in a week and the minimum 9 (7.14 %) of respondents using electronic journals occasionally. It was followed by 36 (28.57 %) of respondents use E- Journals once in two days and only 14 (11.11%) of respondents use every day.

Table 5: Place of Using E – Journals

Sl. No	Place	No. of respondents	%
1	Central Library	66	52.38
2	Home	17	13.49

3	Computer Lab	31	24.61
4	Internet cafe	12	9.52
Total		**126**	**100**

The data in the above table.5 shows that majority 66 (52.38 %) of respondents were using e- journals by Central Library of college campus. It was followed by 31 (24.61 %) of respondents were by Computer Lab and only 12 (9.52 %) of respondents were using e- journals through Internet café.

Table 6: Purpose of Using E - Journals

Sl. No	Purpose	No. of respondents	%
1	To Course work	14	11.11
2	To Exam oriented	41	32.54
3	To Research work	21	16.67
4	To Update knowledge	37	29.37
5	For Communication	13	10.31
Total		**126**	**100**

Respondents were asked to indicate that the main purpose of using e-journals. From the above table no. 6 shows that the maximum number 41 (32.54 %) of respondents were using e- journals for their exam point of view. The minimum number 13 (10.31 %) of respondents were using the purpose to improve their communication level. It was followed by 37 (29.37 %) to update knowledge; 21 (16.67 %) for their research work and only 14 (11.11%) for course work.

Table 7: Different level of E – Journals

Sl. No	Types of Journals	No. of respondents	%
1	Electronic version	59	46.83
2	Print version	43	34.13
3	Both	24	19.04
Total		**126**	**100**

From the above table it can be observed that majority 59 (46.83 %) of respondents were using the Electronic version whereas 43 (34.13 %) of respondents were using print version and the remaining were using both versions.

Table 8: Kinds of search using to know E – Journals

Sl. No	Kinds of search	No. of respondents	%
1	Basic search	56	44.44
2	Advanced search	63	50.00
3	Other search	07	05.56
Total		**126**	**100.0**

Students were asked to indicate that what type of search method using to retrieve the data about e-journals; it can be noted that (table no. 8) the maximum number 63 (50.00 %) of respondents were using advanced search and the minimum number 7 (5.56 %) of respondents using other search and 56 (44.44 %) of respondents were using Basic search.

Table 9: Time spent to access E - Journals

Sl. No	Time spent	No.of respondents	%
1	Less than One Hour	74	58.73
2	One Hour	31	24.61
3	Two Hours	15	11.90
4	More than Two	06	04.76
Total		**126**	**100**

The table - 9 shows that 74 (58.73 %) of the respondents were in the habit of accessing e – journals for less than one hour in a day and followed by 31 (24.61 %) of respondents were spending time one hour and only 6 (4.76 %) of respondents were spending time more than two hours.

Table 10: Internet facility at library and rate

Sl. No	Rate of internet facility	No. of respondents	%
1	Excellent	32	25.39
2	Good	67	53.18
3	Neutral	16	12.69
4	Bad	11	08.74
Total		**126**	**100**

Internet access facilities are one of the most important sources in the library. It is creating an easy way to obtain required information. It reveals that the majority 67 (53.18 %) of respondents were rated ‘good’ and followed by 32 (25.39 %) of respondents were opinioned ‘Excellent’.

Table 11: Satisfaction level of E – Journals

Opinion	No. of respondents	%
Fully Satisfied	87	69.05
Fairly satisfied	22	17.46
Not satisfied	17	13.49
Total	**126**	**100**

The above table 11 shows that the majority 87 (69.05 %) of respondents were fully satisfied about the satisfaction level of E – Journals. It was followed by 22 (17.46 %) of respondents were fairly satisfied and only 17 (13.49 %) of respondents were not satisfied.

Table 12: Problem faced while using E-Resources

Problems	**No. of respondents**	**%**
Less bandwidth speed	26	20.63
No Training programme	32	25.40
Deficiency of Timing	48	38.10
Journal articles are not as per need	14	11.11
Non-cooperation from library staff	6	04.76
Total	**126**	**100**

The study aimed to know about the problems faced while using E- Journals. Table 12 indicates that 48 (38.10 %) of respondents have faced the major problem of Deficiency of Timing. It was followed by 32 (25.40 %) of respondents who indicates lack of training and only 6 (4.76 %) of respondents having trouble with Non – cooperation from library professionals.

FINDINGS

The majority 85 (67.46 %) of the respondents are female and the remaining are male. It is interesting to note that the female respondents are very high. Majority 77.78 % were well aware about E- Journals and it was followed by 19.05 % of respondents were not aware of it and only 3.17 % of respondents were no idea about the use of E – Journals. The maximum 53.18 % of respondents access electronic journals once in a week and the minimum 7.14 % of respondents using electronic journals occasionally. It was followed by 28.57 % of respondents use E-journals once in two days and only 11.11% of respondents use every day. Majority 52.38 % of respondents were using e- journals by Central Library of college campus. It was followed by 24.61 % of respondents were by Computer Lab and only 9.52 % of respondents were using e- journals through Internet café. The maximum 50.00 % of respondents were using advanced search and the minimum 5.56 % of respondents using other search and 44.44 % of respondents were using Basic search. Majority 53.18 % of respondents were rated ‘good’ and followed by 25.39 % of respondents were opinioned ‘Excellent’. Majority 69.05 % of respondents were fully satisfied about the satisfaction level of E – Journals. It was followed by 17.46 % of respondents were fairly satisfied and only 13.49 % of respondents were not satisfied.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Based on the study, the following three suggestions were made Firstly, The time of Internet service should be increased, and if possible the service should be round the clock. So that users get maximum utilization of this service. Secondly, The College must introduce user education programme about e – journals which are available in the digital library to all the students and Finally, The library staff ought to create awareness and usage of e – journals and helping the students in accessing downloading and printing of journal articles. As a result, the findings indicate the usage and awareness of electronic journals which are available in the Central Library. From the above study, the majority of the respondents were well aware about E-Journals and only few respondents were no idea about the use of E – Journals.

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