

Use of E-Journals in Higher Education

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Abstract

This paper is an effort to examine the "Use of E-Journal in Higher Education" and satisfaction level of students of Udaipur. In this paper an attempt to describe a survey of the use of e-journals by students, teachers and administrative staff as users of university libraries of Udaipur. Analysis performed over the factors, innovations and development in library services that pushes the student for utilizing the library resources, analysis of relationship between relative importance of e-journals of libraries and its importance for student satisfaction with the ICT services of their college libraries were measured in this paper. This research paper evaluates the positive side of integration of e-journals and library and how this integration could benefit the students in their study and academic purposes. A questionnaire and survey is used to identify the impression of users toward the awareness of library services. Further an attempt has also been made to highlight the findings of the study and a few suggestions have been given based on the analysis of collected data.

Keywords: E-journal, Library, Satisfaction, Higher Education

Introduction

Currently we are passing through an era of rapid technological and socio-economic changes and the aura of such change make us believe that we are living in an information society. These technological advances have replaced traditional services and processes with electronic versions which are attractive and economically feasible for the academic libraries.

Majority of the source of information, especially the journals are now available on electronic media like online, CD-ROM and internet. Because of this advancement, information reaches the people in short time, at a less cost and occupies less space. 2250 e-journals are available

free of cost over the internet. Many print journals are now releasing their online versions also, which are often available free to print subscribers.

Role of E-Journals in Higher Education

E-Journals have now become a major source of information delivery for scholars and researchers. Their timely production, delivery, incorporation of multimedia, hyper linking and searching facility has attracted the incorporation of multimedia, hyper linking and searching facility has attracted the interest of people. E-journal facilitates documentation in many ways. They help for getting the most recent publications even before they are published in hard copy.

The libraries incorporate these facility, they subscribe to the journals online and get their login details and upload in their local server. The user of that library appreciate the ways of online searching, browsing, scanning, retrieval and even submission of articles as it saves their time and make them more productive in their work.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are:

- To determine the purpose and utilization of E-journal.
- To identify the age group, status and research field for using E-journal.
- To study comparative usage of print verses electronic E-journal.
- To study the preference level of using the journals.
- To study the satisfaction level of users for infrastructural facilities provided by the library for accessing E-journal.

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Methodology

For the purpose of the study, Mohan Lal Sukhadia University was taken into consideration where, under the UGC's E-journal consortium programmer library get access of about 4000 full text scholarly electronic journal from 25 publishers. The consortium provides current as well as archival access to core and peer reviewed journals in different disciplines. There are some more electronic journals which are having free electronic access with the print subscription of the journals. In order to collect the comprehensive and relevant data for the study, the questionnaire method was used. List of questions were formulated keeping in view the objectives of the study. Data were collected from the 40 users comprising post-graduate, research scholars and faculty members.

Analyse and Interpretation of the Data

The data collected were analyzed and inferences derived. The results of the study are as under:-

Study Population: The study population users of all age groups. Both Sexes, different qualification and subject streams as can be seen from Fig. 1a, 1b and 1c.

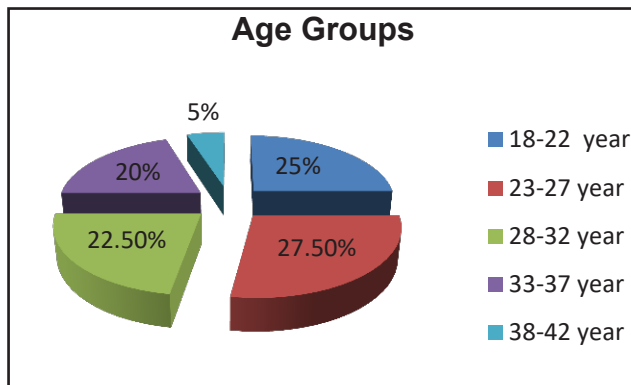


Fig. 1a: Age Groups

Fig. 1a reveals 27.5% of the user of e-journals belong to 23-27 years of age group and 25% of users belong to 18-22 years, 22.5% of users are from 28-32 years and 20%

belong to 33-37years, only 5% user of e-journals belong to 38-42 years of age group.

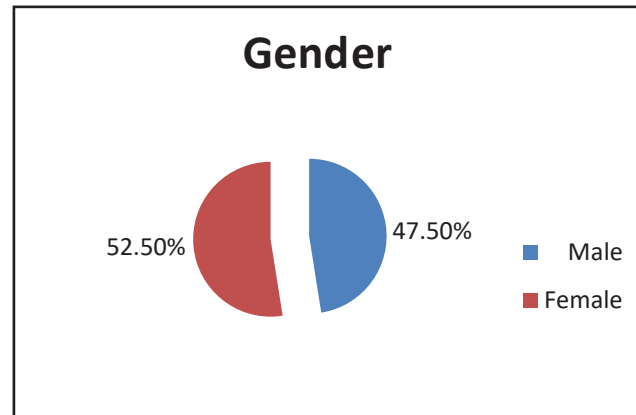


Fig. 1b: Gender

According to Fig. 1b, that 52.5% of population studied were female, and only 47.5% of total were male who access e-journals for different purpose.

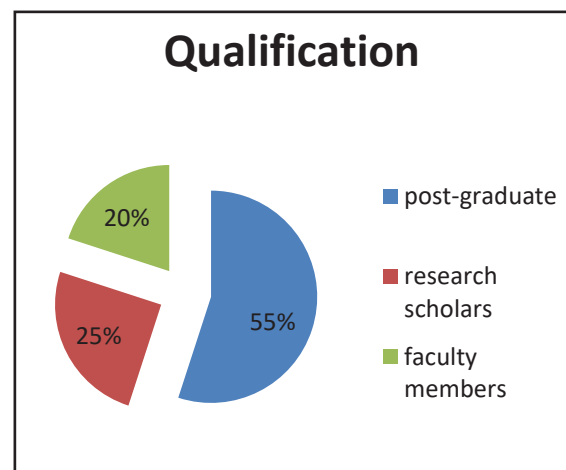


Fig. 1c: Qualification

Fig. 1c shows that 55% of respondents were post-graduate student, 25% research scholar and only 20% were faculty.

Purpose of using E-Journals: A Question was Asked to Identify the Purpose of using E-Journals

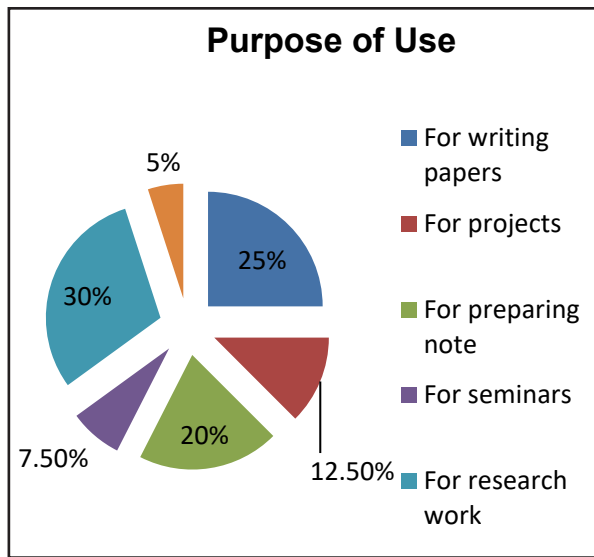


Fig. 2: Purpose of Use

From Fig. 2 it is clear that most of the respondents 30% use e-journals for their research work. 25% of the user's use e-journals for writing papers and 20% use for preparing notes and 12.5% use for projects, 7.5% for seminars. Only 5% users use e-journal facility for other works like general awareness etc.

Frequency for Using E-Journals

Here an attempt has been made to find out the frequency of using the e-journals.

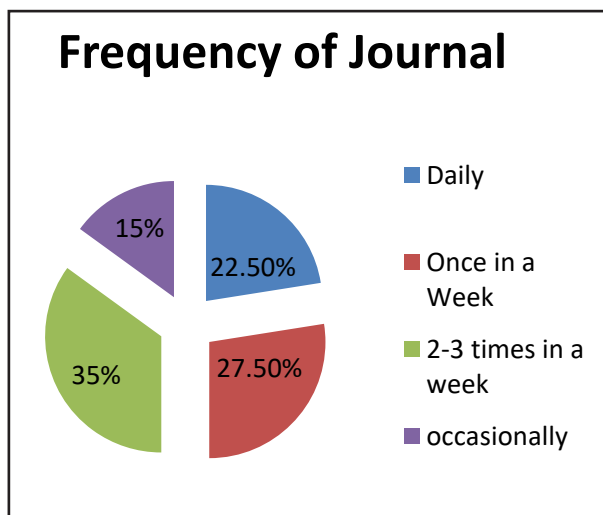


Fig. 3:

Fig. 3 reveals only 22.5% of user's access e-journals daily, 27.5% of respondents use e-journals once in a week and only 35% of users use e-journals 2-3 time in a week and only 15% use it occasionally.

Comparison in Using Print and Electronic Journals in Week

Print journals are equally popular as the electronic journals. This is shown in Fig. 4.

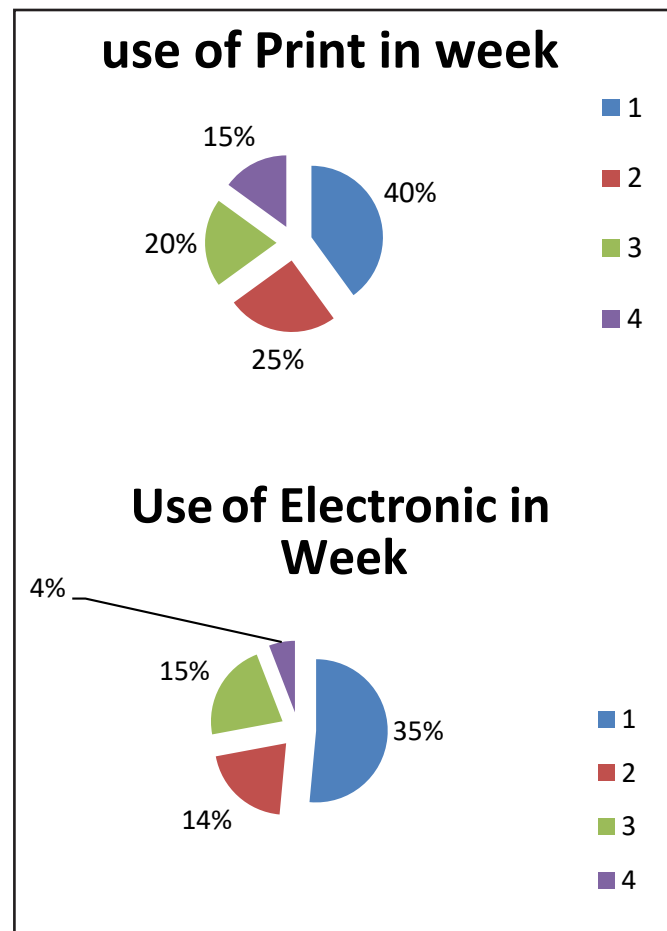


Fig. 4: Comparison in Using Print and Electronic Journals in Week

Fig. 4 reveals that sixteen (40%) users read or use 1-2 print journals on the other hand fourteen (35%) users use 1-2 journals of electronic version in a week. Ten (25%) and sixteen (40%) users read or use print and electronic journals respectively 3-5 journals in a week. 20% users

read from 6-10 print journals and only 15% of users use 6-10 electronic journals in a week. 15% users use 11-20 print journals in a week and only 10% users use 11-20 e-journals in a week.

Satisfaction Level of Users for Infrastructural Facilities Provided by the Library for Accessing E-Journal

The purpose of this is to identify how much are satisfied with library facility. Fig. 5 shows the Satisfaction level of users for infrastructural facilities provided by the library for accessing E-journal.

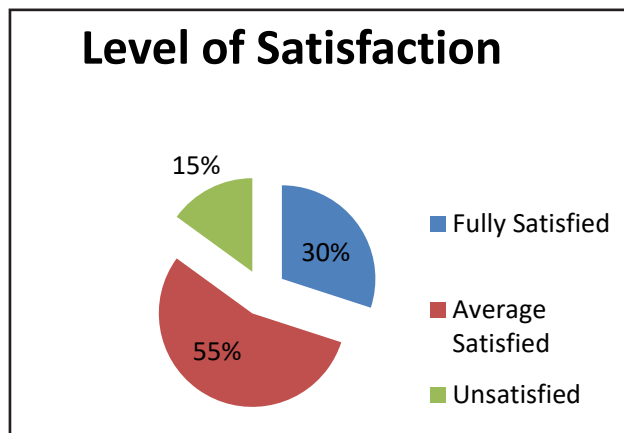


Fig. 5: Level of Satisfaction

The Fig. 5 reveals that 30% users are fully satisfied with the facilities while majority 55% of users are average satisfied and only 15% of users are unsatisfied with the infrastructural facility provide by the university for accessing e-journals.

Preference Level of Using Journals in Future

Here an attempt to know the types of journals. Users want to use in near future like only print or only electronic or they want to access both types of journals.

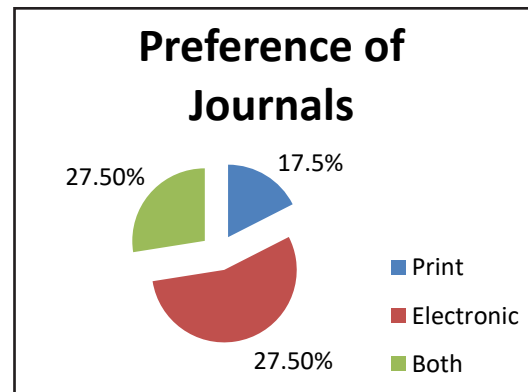


Fig. 6: Preference of Journals

The results (Fig. 6) reveals that 55% of user want to access only electronic journals, only 17.5% users want to read for print journals and 27.5% users want to access from both print as well as electronic form of journals.

Major Findings

This study offers a way to identify the acceptance of e-journals, advantages and the problems encountered while accessing e-journals. The major findings of the study are summarized below:-

- The frequency of usage of electronic journals is increasing day by day.
- 30% of users use the e-journals for their research work.
- 40% respondent read only 1-2 print journals per week and 40% respondent read 3-5 e-journals per week.
- Only 17.5% respondent gave preference to the paper /print journals.
- In comparison of male respondent female respondents are more interested in accessing e-journal.
- Out of 40 users, 55%of the respondents belonged to post graduate, 25% research scholars and 20% faculty member who access e- journal.

- 30% users are fully satisfied with the facilities provide by the library and 55% users average satisfied and 15% users unsatisfied with the facility provide by library.
- 27.5% of users is from the age group of 23-27 years.
- 30% of users use the electronic journals for their research work.
- There are less number of users who access e-journals daily.

Suggestions

- Increased availability of computer systems may increase the use of electronic journals.
- Training program required by users for better assessment of e-journals.
- Information professionals have to create more awareness functions to market their new e-journal services being provide in library.
- An adequate number of student suggested that necessary arrangement should be made to access the full text of more electronic journals.
- A majority of student visit the library for the study/ research purpose and to locate information to borrow book and to access the e-journals. It is therefore suggested that libraries should be developed as need based collection and should also provide good speed of internet facility to the users.

- Need of more trained and skilled staff, who are well aware of the functioning of both software and hardware, who can help the users in areas accessing downloading and printing of e-journals.

Conclusion

Research is the key factor for the development of knowledge in all the disciplines, university are the center of the research. The university plays an important role in providing the information and e- journals.

The study carried out at MLSU, university library reveals that e-journals have become the vital part if information dissemination process. It is clear from the study that younger generation has accepted the digital reading culture and use of electronic journals is going to require a considerable training exercise.

The study also brings out some major suggestion for improving the use e-journals. This study will help the information professionals in developing e-journals services to their users.

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