

A RESEARCH STUDY ON AWARENESS AND USAGE OF e-JOURNALS BY PH.D. SCHOLARS OF GUJARAT UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

This is an era of information and technology in which the advancement of the internet, networking and wi-fi is an innovative medium of information storage, transfer and delivery represent violence. It has a very high impact on the e-publication of information in the 21st century. The increasing growth and development in information technology has brought e-resources like e-books, e-journals as a boon to research community, which becoming major sources for scholarly communication. The research paper and reviewed articles whether online or offline are made available through the e-journals. This is an electronic era in which learning and advanced studies are supported by e-journals, a great tool nowadays. The Objectives of present study is to find out the awareness and usage of e- journals by Ph.D. Scholars of Gujarat University. A structured questionnaire was prepared to collect the primary data from the respondents.

KEYWORDS: e-Resource, e-Journal, e-Publication, e-Books, e-Resources, Information Technology.

Introduction

In the 21st century, electronic resources are sharing resources through the ICT. From the starting of the 21st century, e-resources are fast rising in libraries and their services providing to the users of library. Some electronic journals are freely available on the net, while some e-journals are freely available with subscription for print journals or with nominal fee. E-resources are may be offline or online resources, it's also useful for the teaching and learning process. The Electronic journals are also known as e-journal, paperless journal, virtual journal, scholarly e-journal, online journal, CD-Rom journal, networked journal and non-print journal and they include magazines, periodicals and newspapers. In this electronic era, e-journals are plays an important and crucial role in the research filed. Most of the universities and libraries are spend budget on journals. The main aim of the study is to find out the usage and awareness of e-journal by Ph.D. scholars of Gujarat University.

Review of Literature

So many studies have been carried out on the usage and awareness of e-journals. The literature on the usage and awareness of e-journals was studied and build up a survey tool of data collection for this study. Some literature reviewed for this research study is under.

Natarajan (2017) studied on 182 students of Jimma University, Ethiopia for reviles the usage of e-journals is increasing due to awareness among the students of information science about the e-resources and services. Author has depicted that slow downloading is the major obstacle while using e-resources and increased availability of computer is required, and internet speeds should be improved to the required level.

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Khan (2012) undertakes survey on use of e-journal by students and research scholars in the Department of Botany of Aligarh Muslim University with the 100 sample size. The main aim was to study awareness, use and purpose of the using e-journal and found that majority of students and research scholars are aware of e-journal consortia and satisfied with infrastructural facility.

Pujar (2012) examined and surveyed on 147 titles of open access journals in LIS on DOAJ with main aim was revealed status, coverage and impact factor of open access. Concluded that to promote and measure content may leads to wide dissemination research and get the qualitative content for the sustainable growth in this filed.

Scope and Limitation

The role of e-journals in the academic library is very important and effective as well to use contents for the purpose of research study. This study is limited to e-journal only among the availability of various types of e-resources. The study contains awareness and usage of e-journals included only the Ph.D. scholars of Gujarat University.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are as under:

- To know the awareness and purpose of e-journal.
- To find out usage of e-journals among the Ph.D. Scholars of Gujarat University.
- To study the preferred format for using E-Journals.
- To find out the frequency of using E-Journals.

Research Methodology

The study has been conducted on Ph.D. Scholars of the Gujarat University. So these scholars were chosen as a sample of present research study. The data was collected with the help of questionnaire, a research tool to know the awareness and usage of E-Journals among the Ph.D. Scholars of the Gujarat University. The questionnaires were distributed in the month of January 2019. 92 questionnaires were distributed to the above said sample in different departments of Gujarat University but 80 (87%) scholars responded for the same.

Data Analysis

Personal Detail

Table 1: Gender Details

Sr. No.	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	54	67.5%
2.	Female	26	32.5%
Total		80	100%

Out of 80 respondents 54 (67.5%) was male and 26 (32.5%) were female student.

Table 2: Age Group of Students

Sr. No.	Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	16-25	02	02.5%
2.	26-35	40	50.00%
3.	36-45	29	36.25%
4.	46-55	09	11.25%
Total		80	100%

The analysis of Table 2, the majority of the respondents 40 (50%) belong to age group of 26-35 followed them 29 (36.25%) belong to 36-45, 9 (11.25%) belong to 46-55 and only 2 (2.5%) belong to 16-25 age groups.

Goal to Access the Library

Table 3: Goal to access the library

Sr. No.	Goal to access the library	Frequency	Percentage
1.	To read the books	46	33.82%
2.	To access e-journals	42	30.88%
3.	To access new arrivals in the library	12	08.82%
4.	Only for study	36	26.48%
Total		136	100%

(Survey, Jan.2019 & Multiple answers were permitted)

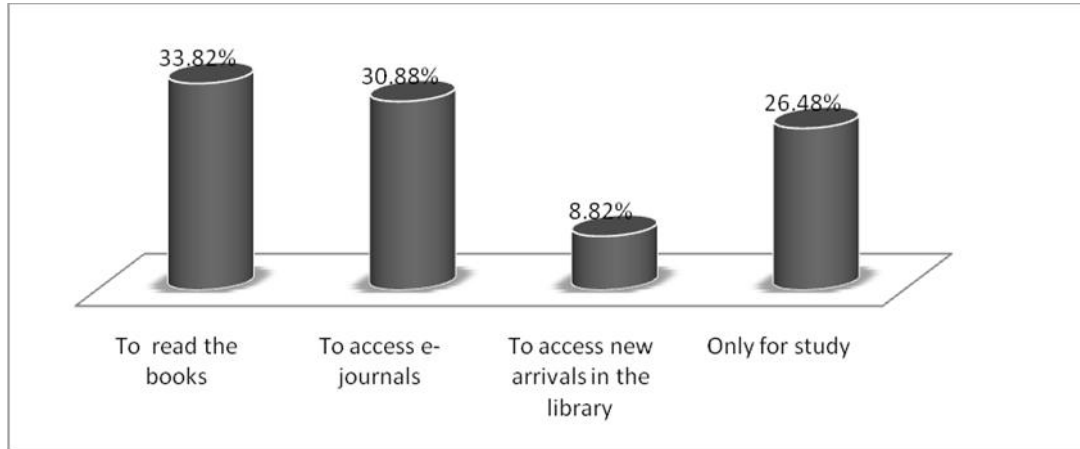


Chart 1: Goal to access the library (In percentage)

The above table shows that 46 (33.82%) of respondents access the library to read the books, followed by 42 (30.88%) of respondents access library to access e-journals, 36 (26.48%) of respondents access library only for the study and 12 (08.82%) of respondents visit the library to access new arrivals in the library.

Aims of Using e-Journals

Table 4: Aims of using e-journals

Sr. No.	Aims of using e-journals	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Research only	39	34.51%
2.	Searching relevant literature	46	40.71%
3.	For awareness	15	13.27%
4.	Publishing paper	13	11.50%
Total		113	100%

(Survey, Jan.2019 & Multiple answers were permitted)

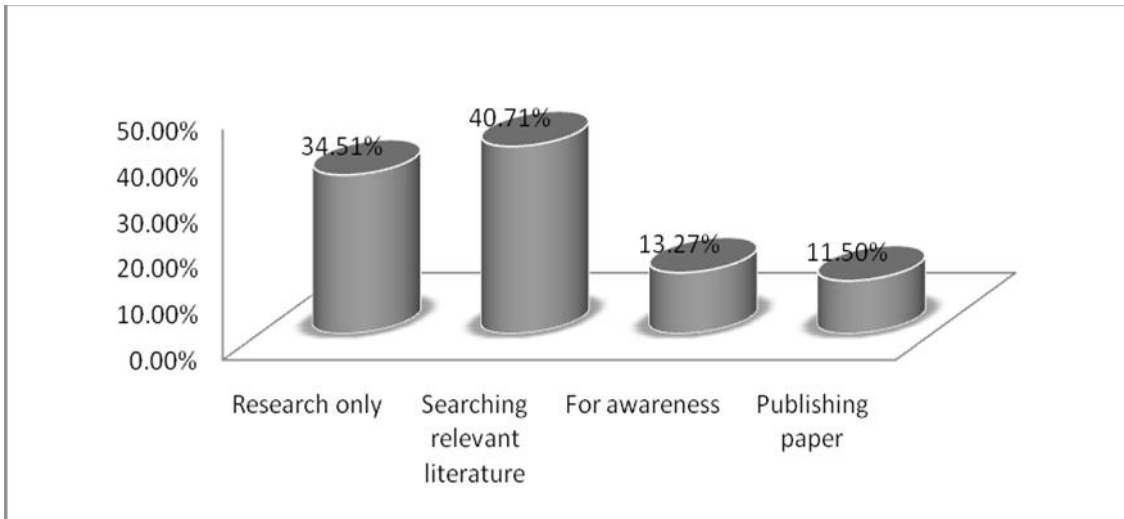


Chart 2: Aims of using e-Journals (In Percentage)

The above table shows that 46 (40.71%) of respondents use e-journal for searching relevant literature for their study, 39 (34.51%) of respondents use it for research only, 15 (13.27%) of respondents aim for the awareness only and 13 (11.50%) of respondents access the e-journal only for the purpose of publishing papers.

Preferred Format for e-Journals**Table 5: Preferred format for e-Journals**

Sr. No.	Preference	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	PDF	61	61%
2.	HTML	09	09%
3.	SGML	02	02%
4.	MS WORD	08	08%
Total		80	100%

Table 5 shows that PDF and HTML are the two most preferred formats with publishers. It is to be noted here that acrobat reader for PDF and browser software for HTML formats are available free of cost, therefore they preferred these two format and they are not ready to pay money for other software.

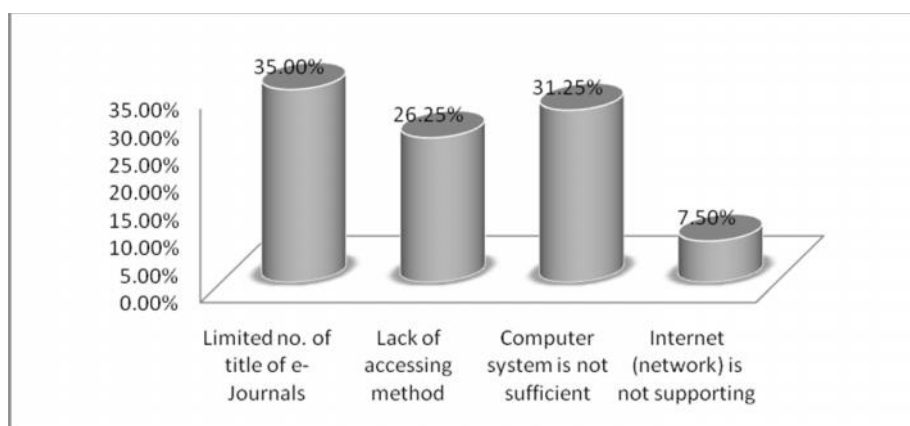
Status of frequency of Use**Table 6: Status of frequency of use**

Sr. No.	Period	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Daily	26	32.50%
2.	2-3 times a week	37	46.25%
3.	Once a week	17	21.25%
4.	Not specify	0	0
Total		80	100%

As per the Table 6, the majority of respondents 37 (46.25%) visit library 2-3 times a week, 26 (32.50%) visit daily and 17 (21.25%) visit once a week.

Problems Faced by Ph.D. Scholars**Table 7: Problems Faced by Ph.D. Scholars**

Sr. No.	Problems	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Limited no. of title of e-Journals	28	35.00%
2.	Lack of accessing method	21	26.25%
3.	Computer system is not sufficient	25	31.25%
4.	Internet (network) is not supporting	06	07.50%
Total		80	100%

**Chart 3: Problems faced by Ph.D. scholars (In percentage)**

The above table and chart explain that majority of respondents' 28 (35.00%) scholars face problem of limited no. of titles of e-journals in the library, and on the other hand, 21 (26.25%) respondents face lack through accessing method. Whereas 25 (31.25%) respondents face that the computer systems are not sufficient and very least 06 (7.50%) of respondents show that internet network does not support for e-journal accessing.

Conclusion

The Ph.D. research scholars of Gujarat University mostly depend upon the library resources and services for their research study. The present study indicates that the e-resources mainly e-journals are the most vital source for the Ph.D. research scholar. Some of the research scholars suggest to subscribe e-journals related to their research study. Lack of training to the research scholars is the major demotivating factor for its utilization. With the help of data analysis the researcher admits that objectives have been accomplished in this study. This study shows that research scholars are mostly aware of e-resources, especially e-journals also. This study also reveals that the research scholars of Gujarat University are more and more satisfied with the access of e-resources mainly e-journals and e-databases in the library. In addition to, the Ph.D. research scholars are satisfied with the library staff and they are helpful to accessing e-journals. This study also helps to develop the services associated to e-journals in Gujarat University Library.

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