Use of Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB): A Study

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ABSTRACT: *The study investigated the awareness and use of Directory of Open Access books by the faculty members of Pondicherry Engineering college, Puducherry. The study was guided by the research objectives namely to determine the channels of awareness of Open Access publications, to determine the major sources consulted for Open Access Publications, to determine the impediments of using Open Access publications. Survey research design was adopted. The population of the study consists of all the faculty members of Pondicherry Engineering College, Puducherry . A sample of 120 was purposely selected from the entire departments in the faculty. Questionnaire was used as an instrument of data collection, 82 were successfully retrieved and analysed using descriptive statistics. The study found that majority of the Faculty members are aware and used DOAB.*

1. Introduction

The exponential growth of scholarly literature has put a severe hindrance on their accessibility, and the libraries, particularly in the developing countries is vexed with the problem of providing access to the vast amount of literature. In addition, the increase in the prices of academic journals by their publishers has posed a major threat to libraries which support academic researcher's research activities. The Internet is world's largest resource for millions of books, statistics articles geography details etc. but the Internet is such kind of a virtual library where everything is scattered on the floor. Librarians have to pick up the desired information and arrange systematically so that wherever required it can be located and presented before the user. There are so many sites, which are useful to provide reference service of wide variety. Theses Internet sources include various kinds of dictionaries, encyclopedias yearbook, statistics fact-findings sources etc.

1.1 What is Open Access?
Open Access (OA) was initiated in the developed countries and was marked by three notable declarations known as Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) in 2002, (http://www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml), Bethesda statement in June 2003 (www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/bethesda.htm), and the Berlin declaration in October 2003 (http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccessberlin/

berlin.decleration.html). Most OA definitions have key features in common i.e. open access exists where there is free, immediate and unrestricted availability of digital content. Those definitions of various experts are given below: According to Suber (2006) "Open access to scientific article means online access without charge to readers or libraries. Committing to open access means dispensing with the financial technical and legal barriers that are designed to limit access to scientific research articles to paying customers" .

1.2 Open Access Books
The Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) is a portal which allows the end users to browse and download e-books freely. The primary aim of DOAB is to increase discoverability of Open Access books. Academic publishers are invited to provide metadata of their Open Access books to DOAB. Directory of Open Access Books, a service of OAPEN Foundation, is a searchable index of academic, peer-reviewed books that have been published under an Open Access license. Includes links to the full-text books on the publishers' websites. Metadata will be harvestable in order to maximize dissemination, visibility and impact. Aggregators can integrate the records in their commercial services and libraries can integrate the directory into their online catalogues, helping scholars and students to discover the books. The directory is open to all publishers who publish academic, peer reviewed books in Open Access and should contain as many books as possible, provided that these publications are in Open Access and meet academic standards.
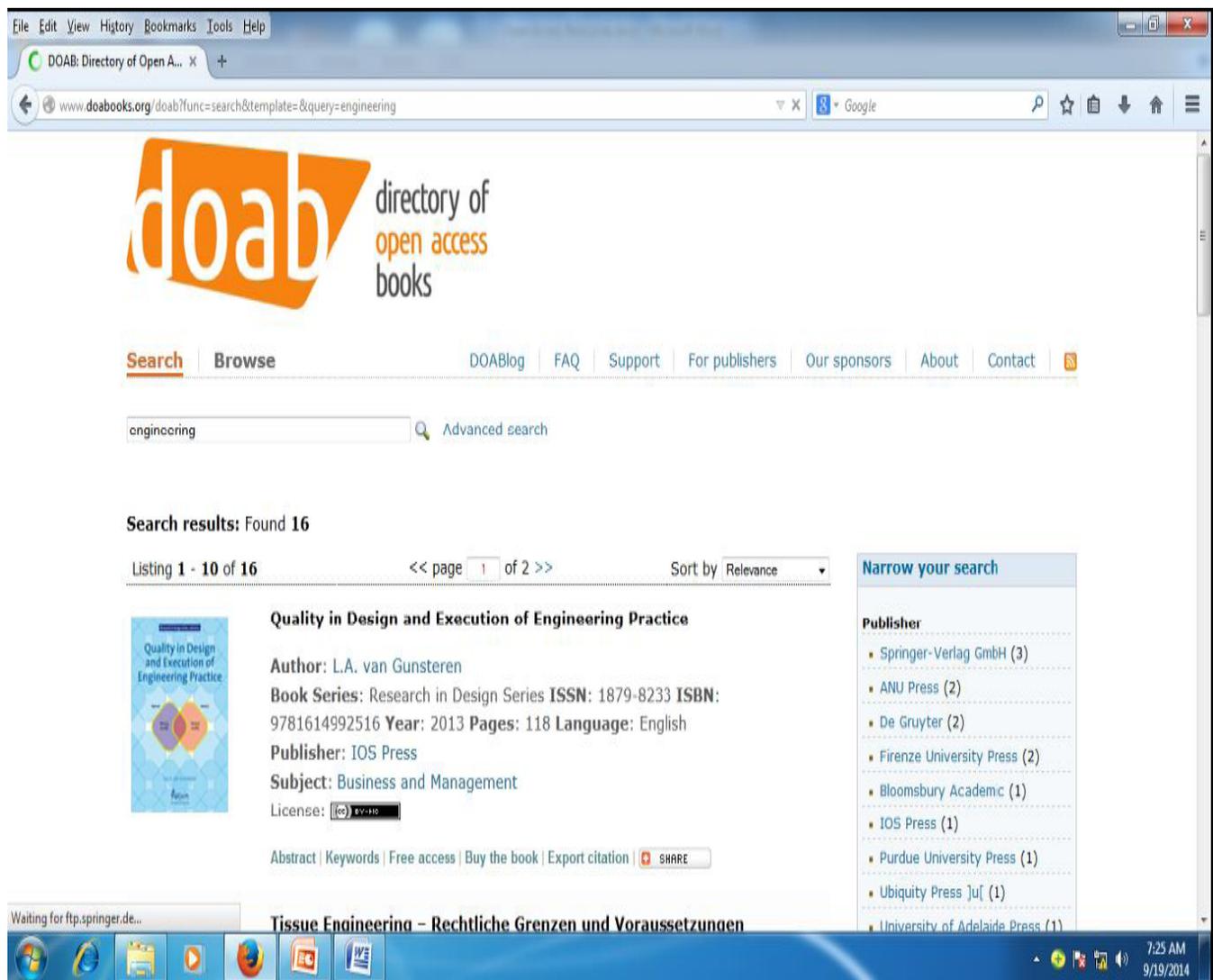

Figure 1. Screenshot Of DOAB

1.2.1 SpringerOpen books

SpringerOpen books are freely and immediately available online at SpringerLink upon publication and are clearly labeled as 'open access'. They are accessible to anyone worldwide, which ensures distribution to the widest possible audience. The growing demand for open access publishing across all disciplines has led Springer to expand our open access program to fully open access books. It now offer authors in a wide range of areas within science, technology and medicine (STM) and within humanities and social sciences the option to publish open access books.SpringerOpen publishes a wide selection of open access books across various disciplines. All SpringerOpen books are freely available online at SpringerLink and listed in the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB). In addition to SpringerLink, Web of Science and Scopus, all SpringerOpen books are listed in the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) and, where appropriate, PubMed's NCBI Bookshelf. SpringerOpen books are also automatically included in Springer's eBook Collections at no additional charge to ensure maximum distribution.

1.2.2 Open Access books on JSTOR

More than 2,500 Open Access ebooks are now available at no cost to libraries or users. These titles reflect JSTOR's high standards for quality content and are freely available for anyone in the world to use. Users won't need to register or log in, and there are no DRM restrictions or limits on chapter PDF downloads or printing. The ebooks are also preserved in Portico, ensuring that they will be available to researchers in perpetuity. Librarians can receive free MARC records and activate the titles in discovery services.

1.2.3 OAPEN

The OAPEN Library contains freely accessible academic books, mainly in the area of humanities and social sciences. OAPEN works with publishers to build a quality controlled collection of open access books, and provides services for publishers, libraries and research funders in the areas of deposit, quality assurance, dissemination, and digital preservation.

2. Problem Statement

Open access resources are of different kinds. Whatever be the kind but have influenced all walks of life. Ever since the open access movement came into being in the early of 21st century, the society greatly depends on open access resources for numerous reasons. NISCAIR Online Periodicals Repository (NOPR), Indian Academy of Sciences Journals, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Directory of open Access Books (DOAB). In view of the above, the researcher intended to assess how far the engineering faculty members have made use of the open access books and their influence in academic and research by undertaking a topic on Use of Directory of Open Access Books by the Faculty members of Pondicherry Engineering College, Puducherry : A Study.

3. Objectives of the Study

The important objectives of the study are

1. To identify the types of open access resources available for teaching and research in the field of engineering

2. To study the level of awareness on the Directory of open access Books among the faculties of Engineering Colleges in Puducherry

3. To assess the extent of use and impact of DOAB for teaching and research by the faculties of engineering colleges in Puducherry

4. To know the purpose of utilization of DOAB .

5. To measure the frequency of use of DOAB by the respondents

6. To know the satisfaction level of faculty members while using DOAB.

4. Methodology

A structured questionnaire method was adopted to collect data from the respondents. Copies of questionnaire were distributed to 120 Faculties, 82 have responded. The collected data were tabulated and analysis was interpreted with the help of simple percentage analysis.

5. Data Analysis

Sl.no.	User	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Professors	24	29.27
2.	Associate Professors	32	39.02
3.	Assistant Professors	26	31.71
	Total	82	100

Table 1. User –Wise Distribution of Respondent

Table 1 indicates the response of user-wise distribution of respondents. Majority of the respondents are Associate Professors (39.02%), Assistant professors 31.71% followed by Professors (29.27%).

Awareness of DOAB	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	76	92.68
No	6	7.32
Total	82	100

Table 2. Awareness about DOAB

Table 2 clearly indicates that the awareness about the open access books by the respondents. Majority of the respondents i.e. 92.68% are aware of DOAB and 7.32% of them are not aware of DOAB.

Preference	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Open Access e-books	63	76.83
Printed books in the library	19	23.17
Total	82	100

Table 3. Preference in using Open Access Books Vs Printed books

Table 3 clearly shows that most of the respondents 76.83% are preferred in using open access books and 23.17% of them preferred in using printed books in the library.

Place of accessing Open Access books	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Library	8	9.76
Department	54	65.85
At Home	20	23.39
Total	**82**	**100**

Table 4. Place of accessing Open Access books

Table 4 clearly indicates that most of the respondents 65.85% are accessing open access books in the department and 23.3% of them accessing at Home and only 9.76% of the accessing from the Library.

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Keep Up-to-date in the subject area	6	7.32
For Research (Project Work)	28	34.15
For Study	14	17.07
For presenting papers	34	41.46
Total	**82**	**100**

Table 5. Purpose of using DOAB

Importance of DOAB	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Can access at any time from any place with multiple users	30	36.59
Can access not just recent issues, but to achieve dating back several years	8	9.75
Texts are displayed clearly in an easy to read format	28	34.15
User-friendly interface	16	19.51
Total	190	100

Table 6. Importance of DOAB Database

Table 5. shows that most of the respondents 41.46% used DOAB for presenting paper, 34.15% of them used for research i.e. for their project work, 17.07% of them used for study and only 7.32% used to update in the subject area.

The importance of DOAB to the respondents is indicated in table 6. It is observed that 36.59% respondentscan access at any time from any place with multiple users. 34.15% of the respondents felt that Texts are displayed clearly in an easy to read format, 19.51% respondents felt User-friendly interface and 9.75% of them access not just recent issues, but to achieve dating back several years.

Easy Access	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Extremely Easy	46	56.10
More Easy	22	26.83
Less Easy	14	17.07
Not as Easy	0	0
Total	82	**100**

Table 7. Extent of Easy Accessing of DOAB

Table 7. shows that 56.10% of the respondents replied that Extremely easily accessing DOABe-books, , 26.83% respondents replied it is more easy to access, 17.7% respondents replied less easy and no one replied that it is not as easy.

Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Better than printed Books	39	47.56
Same as Printed Books	27	32.93
Not Better than Print	16	19.51
Total	82	100

Table 8. Opinions about information content in DOAB E-Books when compared to printed Books

Table 8 states that 47.56% of the faculty members felt that content of DOAB E-book is better than print version. 32.93% of the respondents said that same as Printed Books, 19.51% of the respondent said that Not better than Print version.

Satisfaction	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Excellent	48	58.53
Good	22	26.83
Satisfied	8	9.76
Not satisfied	4	4.88
Total	190	100

Table 9. Satisfaction level of using DOAB

Table 5.9 shows that 58.53% of the respondents felt their satisfaction level of using Open Access Resources is excellent. 26.83% of them felt Good and 9.76% responded Satisfied. Only 4.88% of the respondent felt dissatisfied.

7. Major Findings

1. Majority of the respondents are Associate Professors (39.02%), Assistant professors 31.71% followed by Professors (29.27%).

2. Majority of the respondents i.e. 92.68% are aware of DOAB and 7.32% of them are not aware of DOAB.

3. Most of the respondents 76.83% are preferred in using open access books and 23.17% of them preferred in using printed books in the library.

4. Most of the respondents 65.85% are accessing open access books in the department and 23.3% of them accessing at Home and only 9.76% of the accessing from the Library.

5. Most of the respondents 41.46% used DOAB for presenting paper, 34.15% of them used for research i.e. for their project work, 17.07% of them used for study and only 7.32% used to update in the subject area.

6. 36.59% respondents can access at any time from any place with multiple users. 34.15% of the respondents felt that Texts are displayed clearly in an easy to read format, 19.51% respondents felt User-friendly interface and 9.75% of them access not just recent issues, but to achieve dating back several years.

7. 47.56% of the faculty members felt that content of DOAB E-book is better than print version. 32.93% of the respondents said that same as Printed Books, 19.51% of the respondent said that Not better than Print version.

8. 56.10% of the respondents replied that Extremely easily accessing DOAB e-books, , 26.83% respondents replied it is more easy to access, 17.7% respondents replied less easy and no one replied that it is not as easy.

9. 58.53% of the respondents felt their satisfaction level of using Open Access Resources is excellent. 26.83% of them felt Good and 9.76% responded Satisfied. Only 4.88 % of the respondent felt dissatisfied.

8. Suggestions

1. It is suggested that high speed networking facility to be provided for the faster retrieval of information.

2. Necessary Training facilities are to be provided to acquaint with internet and its resources.

3. Technical Training programs are needed to familiarize to use the open access resources.

4. More number of terminals with internet facility to be provided with down loading and printing facility.

5. College should develop and encourage open access strategies such as institutional repositories, open access archives etc.

9. Conclusion

Open Access e-books are one of the important components of information and Communication Technology. User satisfaction is the ultimate goal of every library. Through open access e-books the teaching faculty benefited The use of open access books gives the positive signs of the growth of IT World in the academic venture. Announcements should be done by the library about the availability of the open access resources viz. Open Access Journals, Open Access Books keeping in view the priorities and preferences of users. The utilization of open access resources should be very high, if the Internet speed become very fast. Download delay is also one of the major problem. The present study reveals that DOAB has a positive impact on faculty members at Pondicherry Engineering College, Puducherry.

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