Awareness and use of E-journals by the Faulty members of Annamalai University: A Study

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ABSTRACT: *It mentions about e-journals. It highlights the objectives, scopes, and methodology of the study. The paper deals with the usage of e-journals by the faculty of Annamalai University, and Varanasi. Analyses the findings of the study in the tabular form. It concludes with some suitable suggestion for the further improvement of the system.*

1. Introduction

Remote access to online catalogs and bibliographic databases has altered library use patterns over the past decade. Library statistics show fewer patrons entering the library as more resources become available.

Online and patrons gain access from their desktops [1]. Many academic institutions are currently building substantial collections of full-text journals and continue to increase access to various online databases. Because these resources come at a great cost, it becomes important to understand database and Full-text journal use among university patrons and the characteristics accompanying today's remote and In-house library users. The paper reports on the findings of a survey distributed to faculty to determine use of the E- resources and characteristics of current users. Some specific questions address whether computer literacy still plays a factor in determining who uses online resources, whether users of the online databases are also users of the e-journals, whether there are differences in the use of resources among the various user groups, what users' primary information sources are, where users access the E-resources, and whether users are fully aware of the multitude of resources available.

2. Significant of the Study

In the present era of information explosion—more and more publications are becoming Web-concerned. Most of the science and technology libraries have changed the contemporary outlook towards functions and services. The environment is rapidly changing to an electronic one. The investigator decided to conduct this study for measuring the usage of e-journals by the faculty of Annamalai University.

3. The Main Objectives of the Presents study are as Follows

1. To find out the awareness of the users about available e- journals.

2. To study the purpose and utilization of e- journals.

3. To find out the hindrances and problems faced by the users while accessing and using e- journals.

4. To study the level of satisfaction of the users about availability and coverage of e- journals.

5. To find out the frequency of using e- journals.

6. To study the preferred format for using e- journals.

7. To study the satisfaction level of users about infrastructure to support the access of e- journals.

8. To ascertain whether orientation/Training progarmme are necessary to use, locate and search e-journals.

9. To suggest suitable recommendations to improve facilities and services related to the use of e-journals.

4. Methodology

Keeping in view the above objectives in mind a structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data from the users of e-journals in the faculty of Annamalai University, Varanasi. Questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to the awareness and use of e-journals. For this purpose a total of 120 questionnaire were distributed among faculty members of Mahila Mahavidyalaya.

Out of 120 questionnaires distributed 103 valid questionnaires were collected and then data was analyzed tabulated interpreted and presented in form of this paper. To determine electronic and print use of the library's electronic and print resources, a questioner was developed. The questioner was designed to assess e-journal use, traditional journal use, database use, computer literacy levels, and other library user characteristics. A pilot test of the survey was done, and several questions were changed, the questioner was distributed to all faculties of Annamalai University. The questioner was distributed to all faculties to determine differences among the various user groups. A cover letter explained the reasons of the survey was being conducted, and that anonymity was assured. Questionnaires were coded to sort respondents by group and to track survey returns. A total of 120 questioners were distributed to faculty.

A second copy of the questioners was sent to no respondents approximately two weeks after the deadline, Data from the returned questioner were analyzed.

5. Scope and Limitation

The present study covered the faculty members of Annamalai University. The faculty included six faculties Science, Arts, Social Science, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Education.

6. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Personal detail section of the questionnaire provides information regarding the sex can be seen from Table 1. It is shown in Figure 1. 6.79% of faculties were males and 93.21% of total were females, who can use e-journals available through Annamalai Univesity Library for different departments.
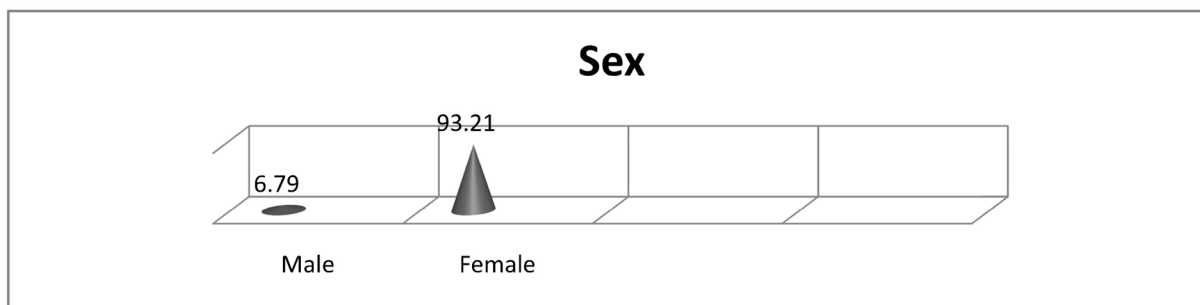

Figure 1.

6.1 Purpose of using e-journals

From the Figure-6 it is clear that most of the respondents i.e is 23.30% of use e- journals for their research work. 35.92 % of respondents use e- journals for writing research papers.8.74% of respondents use e journals for update subject knowledge 18.57 of users using e – journals for other works like exams, etc. and only 7.78% respondent use e-journals for other work.
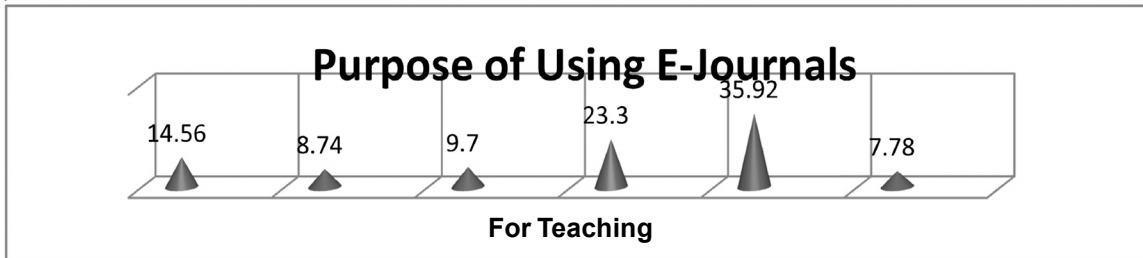

Figure 2.

6.2 Location for Access e-journals

When respondents were asked to indicate the preferred location to access e-journals 54.36% are respondents chose the personal chamber, about 18.44% accessed at the Departmental library, 10.67% accessed at the computer centre and 16.53% accessed from the Central Library got the facility to access e-journals.
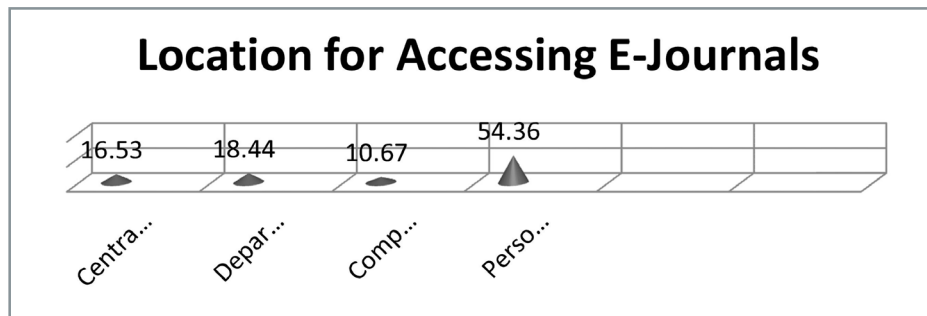

Figure 3.

6.3 Linking Patterns of e- journals

Many of the respondents search e- journals through search engine 25.25% of user use e-journals through library website. 11.65% user linked through the publishers' websites.

6.4 Using Pattern of e-journals

Respondents were asked to indicate how they use the content of e- journals? It was observed from analysis that majority 56.32% of respondents take printout before using e journals. 27.18% downloaded the content in storage device and 16.50% of respondents use on the computer screen.
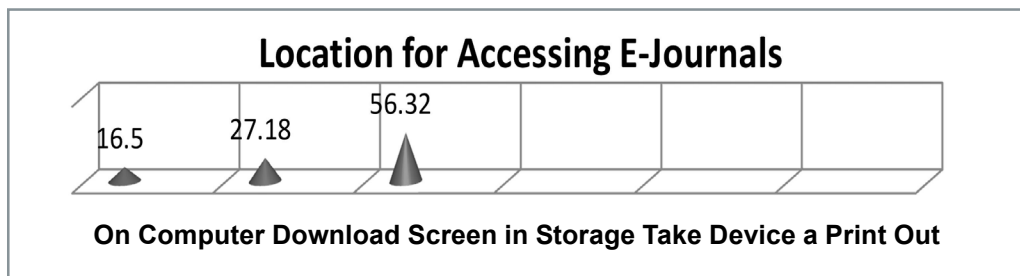

Figure 4.

6.5 Difficulties of accessing e-Journals

Though e-journals have become a common source among the academic and research communities, the majorities of users stated that they have difficulties to use e-journals. The specific problems faced by the users are given in the Figure 6. It was observed that majorities of respondents are not satisfied with availability of enough journals in their subjects.
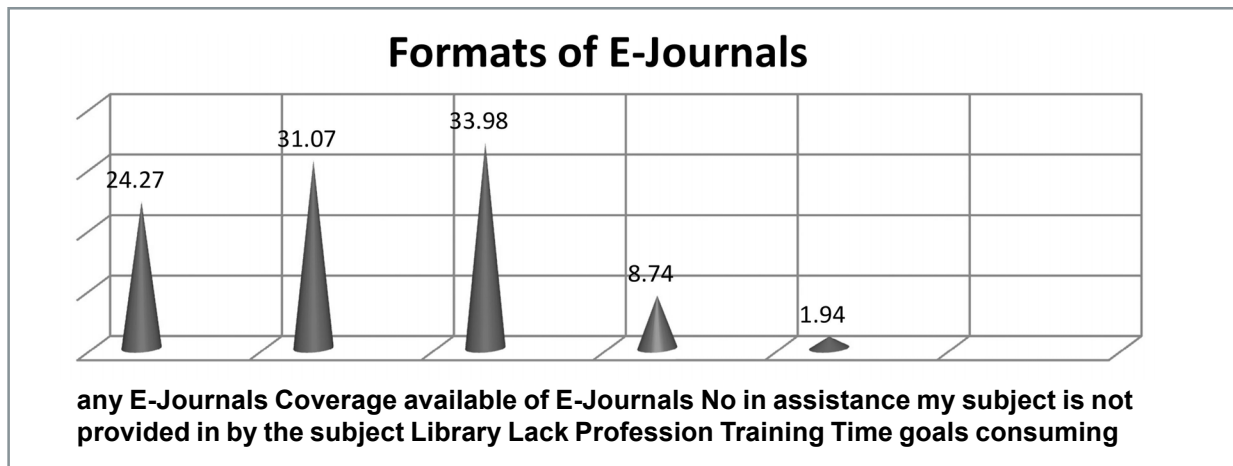

Figure 5.

6.6 Satisfaction Level about Infrastructure Provided by the Library for Accessing e-Journals

A question was asked to know the satisfaction level of infrastructures among the users for accesing e-journals. It was observed that majority of respondents are satisfied that with the infrastructure provided by the library for acessing e-journals at differnt levels whereas only 29.13% of respondents are not satisfied with the same.
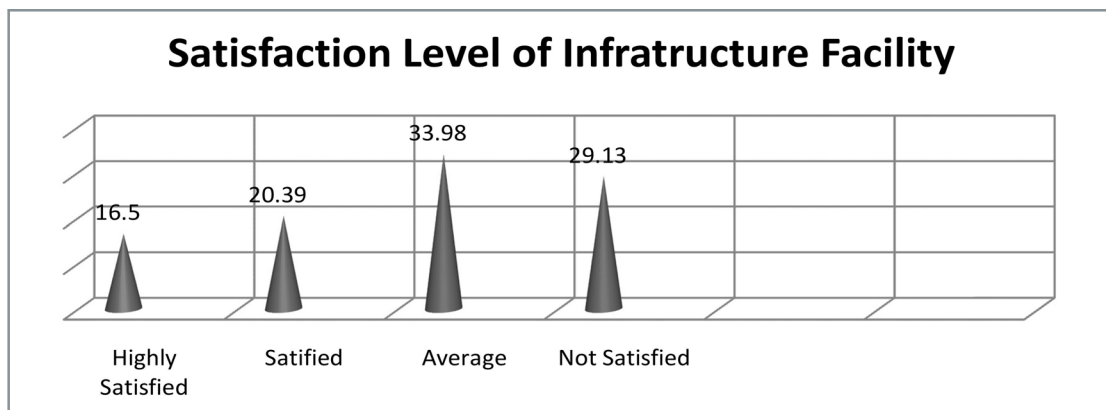

Figure 5.

6.7 Need of Orientation/Training Program

To further questions asked to whether they would like to received orientation/Training programme to use e-journals 29.13% respondents said that they do not want any training whereas majority 70.87% are respondents replied in the affirmative. The results obtained were given in the Figure 6.

7. Major Findings of the Study

• Frequency of usage of e-journals is increasing day by day.

• Majority of users use e-journals everyday.

Need of Orientation/Training Program
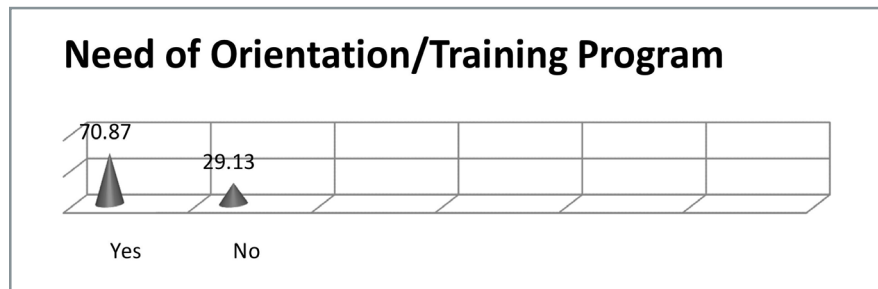
70.87

29.13

Yes   No

Figure 6.

• Majority of users are aware about e-journals.

• Majority of users want to use only online versions of journals.

• 23.30% of users use e-journals for the research works.

• 35.92% use e-journals for writing research papers.

• 54.36% of users accessing e-journals in their personal chamber.

• 49.51% of users link e-journals through search engines.

• 64.8 % of users are interested to read e-journals in PDF format.

• Major portions 56.32% of users downloads e-journals and takes print out for further reading. 33.98 % of the respondents are satisfied with the infrastructure provided by the university to ccess e-journals.

• 70.87 % respondent needed training or orientating programme to frequently used e-journals.

8. Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study the following suggestions are made. The authority must conduct the training programme for users regarding how to use e-journals. Awareness should be created to use e-journals and online database to fulfill information needs. More computer terminals should be installed in the library for the benefit of users. There is need to include more number of e-journals in various discipline. More funds should be given to acquire e-journals. Information professionals have to help users to create awareness and use of e-journals

9. Conclusion

From the above study it observed that e-journals have became the vital part of information of various needs. E-journals are the most important for the research communities it is precede that e-journals saves time of users. Lack of training among users and proper infrastructure in the library is a de-motivation factor in the use of e-journals. This study helps the librarian to know the importations of e-journals and it helps them to improve the services related to e-journals.

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