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Student Attitude towards Use of Electronic Journals: A Case Study with Reference to AIIMS, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Abstract

The study describes the use of ERMED consortium e-journals by the students of AIIMS, Raipur. A well-structured questionnaire was designed to elicit the opinion of the users. 65 responses were gathered and the result are analyzed and presented here with. The paper examines the purpose, frequency, average time spent per week, place of accessibility, linking a pattern, method of reading the full text, most preferred format, the reason for using difficulties of accessing, and most preferred search engine used to access e-journals. Some suggestions have been put forth for maximizing the use of e-journals.

Keywords: Electronic Journals, Search Engines, User Study, Consortium, ERMED.

Introduction

Today the new electronic environment is challenging the scientific and technical journals. The number of e-journals and e-versions of paper journals have increased substantially with the increased availability and use of the Internet. In this information era, the shift from print based communication to electronic channels of communication in the dissemination of information through various forms like digital, electronic publishing and now the latest web accessible or online journals is very much evident. With the advent of internet and the introduction of e-journals during 1990s the library consortia have taken a new role with the purpose of expanded access to e-journals i.e. a) access to more number of journals. b) Multiple access and c) access to supplementary non-print materials like multimedia. E-journals are very important sources for the research and development. E-journals are becoming vital to carry any meaning full research. This resource is widely used by research and development. The quality of e-journals is growing larger and has become a quite visible entity in serial publication. Today most of the e-journals appear as parallel version of its print counterparts and more publishers are making their journals available in electronic format. The science disciplines have already embraced the internet as the main place for publishing journals and archiving papers. Massive databases are available to scholars in the sciences containing both peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed articles e-journals are cost effective, provide better access to information and allow for interactivity between reader and author. However, they rely on technology, which is often unreliable, and is still not accepted fully by the academic community.(Kumar,Devendra& Kumar,Sonu,2013)

About AIIMS Raipur

AIIMS Raipur is one of the new apex healthcare institutes established by the ministry of health & family welfare, government of India under the pradhanmantryswasthyasurakshayojna (PMSSY) on the pattern of AIIMS, New Delhi(1). The institute was established with the aim of correcting regional imbalance in quality tertiary level healthcare in the region and attaining self-sufficiency in graduate and postgraduate medical education and training in this hitherto under-served area of the country. The institute got operational from the year 2012. The institute has an excellent central library having medical books and general reading books are available in library. Wi-Fi internet facility, RemoteXs facility and OPAC service is available in the library. Institute has subscribed 241 e-journals through ERMED consortium (Annual Report AIIMS Raipur, 2015).

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Library Consortium

A library consortium is a formal association of libraries, not under the same institutional control, but usually restricted to a geographical area, number of libraries, types of materials, or subject interest, which is established to develop and implement resource sharing among members. The objective of library consortia is to control and reduce information costs, to improve resource sharing, to develop a network information environment (e.g. via campus systems, campus networks, and the Internet), and to share licensing issues with each other. A Library Consortium is a group of libraries that agree to pool their resources by allowing the users of each institution some type of access to the resources of all the other institutions, either through interlibrary loan or borrowing privileges(Bhatt, R.K., 2006).

Definition of Consortia

The consortia can be defined as "a strategic alliance of institutions having common interest". The main aim of a consortium is to achieve what the members of the group cannot achieve individually. One of the libraries or the agency works as coordinator for identification of member libraries along with e-resources to be covered through consortia and publishers concerned . A committee appointed by the group will work out in detail the access mechanism, pricing models, payment mechanism, archival and copyright issues. There are two types of popular consortia: a) Centralized consortia b) Decentralized consortia. In decentralized consortia members including the host of the consortia are loosely affiliated to one another or to the host. Decentralized consortia suffer from the exclusive staff and not institutionalized of its identity. Sustainability is better if the participating libraries are involved in decision-making and training is a continued process. The very terminology consortia call for collective management or governance. The scope of consortia may be international, national, regional, local or libraries under one apex body or loosely affiliated subject cluster libraries. Accessing the electronic resources is infrastructure (IT) intensive and there is general lack of willingness to cancel the printed edition of the journals in the institution. An agreement, combination, or group (as of companies) formed to undertake an enterprise beyond the resources of any one member (Webster Dictionary). A consortium is an association of two or more individuals, companies, organizations or governments (or any combination of these entities) with the objective of participating in a common activity or pooling their resources for achieving a common goal. A Consortium could be described as a group of organizations who come together to fulfill a combined objective that usefully requires co-operation and the sharing of resources. And need to have a clear mutual goal in order to ensure their success. The aim should be to deliver "more than the sum of the individual parts". A library Consortium formation can be local, regional, state, national and inter institutional level (Kumar Baldev, 2014).

Ermed Consortium

National Medical Library's ERMED Consortium (E-Resources in Medicine) is an initiative taken by DGHS & MOHFW to develop nationwide electronic information resources in the field of medicine for delivering effective health care. 70 states and centrally funded Government Institutions including all AIIMS are selected as its members. The members are divided into Level-I and Level-II on the basis of number of end-users in different institutes. There is no membership fee charged from members and the MOHFW has provided funds required for the purchase of electronic journals under the NML-ERMED consortium project. The consortium will be coordinated through its headquarter set up at the NML. The consortium is working under the guidance of Mr. K.P. Singh, Director, NML, who is working to provide member Institutions access to Latest Medical Journals. The consortium will continue to be expanded and updated on an on-going basis and suggestions for relevant and useful content are welcome (5). 241 high quality online e-journals are presently purchased from 5 leading publishers:

1. British Medical Journal Publishing
2. Cambridge University Press
3. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
4. Oxford University Press
5. John Wiley

Benefits of Ermed Consortium

1. Dramatically broader access to quality content from high impact factor quality Journals.
2. ERMED to facilitate & implement access of ordering products and end-users of member institutions to receive training
3. Flexible selection by title or by collection and subscribed titles at very deep discount rate
4. Low-cost, high impact way to supplement or build a digital Journals collection
5. Unlimited, concurrent user access
6. COUNTER-compliant usage data
7. Perpetual access rights.
8. Customer support, training and marketing resources for library
9. No hassle of archiving and management of print resources.
10. Access to high Impact factor quality Journals which are faster, more economical and efficient as compared to print.
11. No DRM restrictions on downloads and printing
12. Enhanced discoverability through powerful browser and search functionality
13. Read, download or print by the article.
14. Access 24/7/365 to multiple-users through static I P address. Users can access Journals from their Department.
15. Increased productivity and innovation through digital format efficiencies

Review of Literature

Nanda, Archita (2017) conducted a study which aims to Use and Awareness of E-journals by the Faculty and Research Scholars of Veer SurendraSai University of Technology .The study analyse the use and awareness of e-journals by the faculty members and research scholars of the Veer SurendraSai University of Technology (VSSUT). The study also intends to determine the purpose of using of e-journals, access place for searching e-journals,

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preferred format for accessing it and suggestions for promoting the use of e-journals. Questionnaire method was adopted to elicit data from faculty and research scholars of VSSUT. Total one hundred fifteen respondents participated in the survey from which 56 are faculty members and 59 are research scholars. The study reveals that faculty and research scholars are aware about e-journals and online database subscribed by their library. The majority of faculty and research scholars using e-journals for research purpose and Department is the most preferred location for accessing e-journals.Boakye, E. and Ndeogo, M.A (2017) this study assessed the awareness, accessibility and use of e-journals by the faculty of Christian Service University College, Kumasi. Structured questionnaires were sent to senior staff (97), out of which 92 were returned and found useful for descriptive analysis. The results indicated that levels of awareness and use of e-journals were relatively high (56.5%) while accessibility (48.9) was somewhat low. Factors such as slow network, regular power-cuts and unstable network were found to hinder access to and use of e-journals. The implication of the study of management is the need to translate awareness into accessibility.Kuri, Ramesh and O, Maranna (2017) Conducted a survey on use of e-resources by the users of Vishveshwarya Technical University Library .It is found that faculty members can retrieve seemingly endless volumes of information in a short span of time with the help of new technologies. Purpose of using e-resources is the best use for research work. But author suggest that there should be necessary training facilities are to be provided to the users.Mane, Manisha B. (2017) studies the Use of E-journals Among the Library Patrons: A Survey of Indira Group of Institutes, Pune. He found that Majority of the respondents believed that they would use e-journals in the future. Thus, it is essential to study use of e-journals and their attitude towards modern technology used in the library. Prabakaran, K., (2013).Conducted a survey on use of e-resources among faculty members of engineering colleges in Duddalore district. It is found that faculty members can retrieve seemingly endless volumes of information in a short span of time with the help of new technologies. Purpose of using e-resources is the best use for research work. But author suggest that there should be necessary training facilities are to be provided to the users. KacherkiandThom bare (2010) in their study revealed that majority of the respondent wanted journals available in both electronic & print forms. The preferred e-journals because of timely access (76%), hyperlinks to contents (50%) electronic search capabilities (61%) and multimedia contents (47%). However they also faced some problems such as difficult to browse (31%) need special infrastructure facility (11%), copyright concerns (17%).Kanniyappan, Nithyanandam and Ravichandran (2008) in the study revealed that majority of the respondents (53%) used e-journals for research purpose. (52.7%) used e-journals and (32%) used both electronic and print journals. (44.7%) preferred print journals because of their portability and (52.7%) for browse ability. The major problem faced by the respondents in using e-

resources was lack of information about how to use them.Madhusudhan (2008) the study shows that e-journals perform an increasingly important role in research at DLIS. Not only current e-journals are required but research scholars and students need to be provided the use of significant electronic back runs as well. There is an even increasing demand for subscription of more e-journals title in LIS. There appears to be some need for academics to be provided with training in using e-journals. The areas where the greatest need for training are around managing and g references.

Scope of the Study

The present study consists of only MBBS students for accessing the e-journals. The scope of the topic has been limited to only AIIMS, Raipur campus.

Objectives of the Study

The study was carried out to achieve following objectives:

1. To study the use of e-journals by the MBBS students.
2. To find out the purpose of using e-journals services by the students.
3. To find out the frequency and time spent for accessing of e-journals.
4. To know the most preferred places from where they access e-journals.
5. To find out the problems faced by the students while accessing e-journals.
6. To find out the most preferred method of reading full text & preferred format of e-journals.

Research Methodology

The present study questionnaire method was used for data collection. The data collection through the questionnaires was scrutinized, classified and tabulated and presented with the help of percentages. A total number of 80 questionnaires were personally distributed among the MBBS students of AIIMS Raipur. 65 (81.25%) respondents could submit their filled in questionnaires.

Data Analysis & Interpretations

The data collected through questionnaires were organized, tabulated and interpreted by using a simple statistical method.

Table 1 – Respondents

No. of Questionnaires Distributed	Total Questionnaires received
80	65 (81.25%)

Table- 1 indicates that total80 questionnaires were distributed among students out of which 65 filled questionnaires were received for study.

Table 2 – Gender – Wise Positions

Gender	Students	%
Male	35	53.85
Female	30	46.15
Total	65	100

Table -2 highlights that gender wise respondents position has been taken for the study. In student 35(53.85%) male and 30 (46.15%) female users have been taken for the inspection regarding use of e-journals.

Table 3 – Purpose of using e- journals

Purpose	Students	%	Preference
For research work	43	66.15	1
For writing papers	23	35.38	2
For Update Subject Knowledge	20	30.76	3
For Studying Course Work	19	29.23	4

Table-3 revealed that the purpose of using e-journals for research work 66.15% has been identified to be the maximum use by the students. For writing papers 35.38%, 30.76% for update subject knowledge, and 29.23% for studying course work.

Table 4 – Frequency of using e- journals

Frequency	Students	%
Daily	38	58.46
Twice in a week	16	24.61
Occasionally	11	16.92
Total	65	100

Table-4 shows that 58.46% of the students are using e-journals daily, while 24.61% using twice in a week. There are only 16.92%of students are occasionally using e-journals.

Table 5 - Time Spent for Using e- Journals (in per week)

Time Spent	Students	%
30 Minutes	9	13.84
Up to 1 hour	14	21.53
1-2 hours	11	16.92
2-5 hours	29	44.61
Over 5 hours	2	3.08
Total	65	100

Table- 5 it has been found that 44.61% of the students who spent time for using e-journals 2-5 hours per week, whereas 21.53%of students who spent time in the library up to one hour, 16.92% spent time 1-2 hours, whereas only 13.84% students who spent time for using e-journals 30 minutes and 3.08% spent time more than five hours.

Table 6 - Most Preferred access point of the e-journals

Access Point	Students	%	Preference
Central Library	40	61.54	1
Department Lab	18	27.69	2
Other Places	7	10.77	3
Total	65	100	

Table -6 related that the most preferred access point of the e-journals is central library (61.54%) has been identified to be maximum by the students. Department lab was placed in the second order of rank (27.69%), followed by other places (10.77%) secured the third rank in order of ranking.

Table 7- Preferred methods of reading full text e-journals

Methods	Students	%	Preference
Print out of the paper	31	47.69	1
Display on the PC monitor	27	41.53	2
Downloading in the CD/DVD, floppy and flash memory etc.	22	33.84	3

Table-7 revealed that the most preferred methods of reading full text e-journals is print out of the paper (47.69%) has been identified to be the maximum by the students. Display on the PC monitor is the second order in rank (41.53%), followed by downloading in the CD/DVD,floppy and flash memory etc. (33.84%) secured the rank third respectively in order of ranking.

Table 8 – Most preferred formats of e-journals

Formats	Students	%	Preference
PDF	35	53.84	1
HTML	27	41.54	2
Both (PDF & HTML)	3	4.61	3
Total	65	100	

Table-8 revealed that the most preferred formats of e-journalsis PDF (53.84%) has been identified to be the maximum by the students. HTML is the second order in rank (41.54%), followed by above both format PDF & HTML (4.61%) secured the rank third respectively in order of ranking.

Table 9- Preferred features of using e-journals

Features	Students	%	Preference
Reliable access	59	90.77	1
Available before print version	57	87.69	2
Access from different locations	56	86.15	3
Access to full content	55	84.61	4
User friendly interface	53	81.53	5
Easy to use	51	78.46	6

Table- 9 shows the preferred features for using e-journals by students. Reliable access (90.77%) has received the highest rank followed by available before the print version (87.69%), access from different locations (86.15%), access to full content (84.61%), user friendly interface (81.53%), and easy to use (78.46%) as first to six ranks in the ranked order as a preferred features for using e-journals.

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Table 10 – Problems faced in accessing e-journals

Problems	Students	%	Preference
Lack of budget	38	58.46	1
Coverage of e-journals is insufficient for academic course subjects	32	49.23	2
No assistance provided by the library/ information professionals	29	44.61	3
Lack of training	24	36.92	4
Time consuming	12	18.46	5

Table-10 revealed that the problems faced in accessing e-journals(58.46%) have been identified to be the maximum by the students. coverage of e-journals is insufficient for academic course subjects are the second order of rank i.e. (49.23%), followed by no assistance provided by the library/ information professionals (44.61%), lack of training (36.92%) and time consuming (18.46%) secured the rank 4-5 respectively in order of ranking.

Table 11 –Most preferred search engine used to access e-journals

Search engines	Students	%	Preference
Google	56	86.15	1
Yahoo	6	9.23	2
Others	3	4.61	3
Total	65	100	

Table- 11 revealed that the most preferred search engine used to access e-journals is Google (86.15%) has been identified to be the maximum by the users. Yahoo at the second order of rank i.e. (9.23%), followed by others (4.61%) secured the rank third respectively in order of ranking.

Table 12- Level of satisfaction for using e-journals

Satisfaction level	Students	%
Highly satisfied	11	16.92
Satisfied	35	53.85
Average	15	23.08
Not satisfied	4	6.15
Total	65	100

Table- 12 shows that (53.85%) of the respondents were satisfied with using e-journals, only (23.08%) of the respondents were average satisfied, (16.92%) were the highly satisfied, and (6.15%) were not satisfied regarding using e-journals.

Findings

The major findings of the study are as follows:
1. It is clearly highlighted that majority of the users use e-journals for their research purpose.
2. It is found that half of the students i.e. 44.61% spent 2-5 hours per week to access e-journals.
3. It is found that the majority of the students preferred access points of e-journals mostly in the central library.
4. Almost half of the students like to have printed form of full text e-journals.
5. The present study shows that PDF format of e-journals is user friendly.

6. It is seen that maximum students like to have reliable access option and available before the print version option.
7. Insufficient budget problem is a great barrier in term of e-journals to meet the requirement of students.
8. It is observed that Google is the most preferred search engine among students for accessing e-journals.
9. 53.88% of students are found satisfied with the available service of e-journals.

Suggestions
1. To provide an electronic journals facility efficiently and effectively number of terminals and printers must be increased in the library.
2. To reduce the slow down loading problem while accessing the electronic journals, the digital library should acquire high speed internet and intranet connections.
3. The library should organize regular workshops to enhance usage of electronic journals.
4. User training should be given for the proper exploitation of electronic journals.
5. Number of journals available through consortium may be increased to access more journals in their respective fields.
6. The library should conduct user surveys regularly to determine user needs for e-journals and identify changes in the use of e-journals.
7. The library should introduce a feedback system to know the use and usability of e-journals by the students.
8. The library should develop an online user guide for accessing e-journals.
9. The library should identify non- users of e-journals and proper steps should be taken to convert them into potential users of e-journals.
10. Users' studies should be conducted to know about the need of electronic information to the students as well as problems they are facing while searching the information through the electronic journals consortium.

Conclusion

Access to e-journals has definitely boosted research activities in all disciplines of study in the academic areas. Academic libraries invest a considerable amount for the procurement, creation, and maintenance of e-resources for setting of the best kind of electronic learning environments that suit best for their users. AIIMS central library is no exception to this fact. The present study has clearly indicated that, the e-journalshave become the vital part and highly useful for the research community in the present environment in which the e-journals have to play a significant role to assist the academic community in the provision of this unique service to the academic and research community. To assist the academic community the authorities of the central library must conduct the user awareness programs to train the research and academic community in the maximum utilization of these e-journals more effectively and efficiently at the campus.

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