

Awareness and Usage of Online Journals by Academic Faculty Members and Student Teachers in College of Education at Erode District



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Abstract

This paper presets study attempts to analyst that awareness and usage of online journals by Academic Faculty Members and Student Teachers in College of Education at Erode District. A sample of 170 Academic Faculty Members and 750 Student Teachers are selected randomly for the study from Seven B Ed Colleges in Erode District. A total of 920 structured questionnaires were distributed to the sample of Academic Faculty Members and Student Teachers of Colleges of Education; 908 valid samples were collected. The findings of the study (79.52%) Academic Faculty Members (19.95%) Student Teachers of the respondents are awareness and willingness to use the online journals. The analysis reveals that majority of the respondents use online journals for their teaching purposes.

Keywords: Awareness, Usage, Online Journals, Faculty Members, Student Teachers, College of Education

Introduction

The advent of information technology has given to the development of Internet and the World Wide Web. These channels are gaining popularity for scholarly communication and research results, yet the scholarly journal is regarded as the most preferred medium. Internet is now a huge source of academic, research, teaching, learning, and general information sources. A journal can be called as e-journal, if its contents are produced and stored in electronic form, and if these contents can be scanned in a database and retrieved online journal. In the 1960s and 1970s, librarians were using electronic databases as a part of library services. In the 1980s, libraries started using CD-ROM versions of electronic databases. In the 1990s and from 2000 onward, internet access and consortia approach of journals subscriptions diversified the availability of electronic information. The present eras of 21st century are the days if electronic era information is moving in the air around us. The advantages of e-journal are to provide desktop access freely available electronic version of journals. The sites for using and can access the full text articles and the citation linking across journals has been another landmark. Presently we are living in knowledge society where information is the key item progress in this age depends largely on front line knowledge/information gained by the society. In this era of information, internet has made tremendous impact on the academic activities of the faculty members, researchers, and the students.

Definition of Online Journal

An electronic journal is a periodical publication which is published in electronic format, usually on the Internet. Electronic Journals have several advantages over traditional printed journals; you can search the content pages and or the full text of journals to find articles on a certain subject. Online Journal Articles are a specialized form of electronic document they have the purpose of providing material for academic research and study, and they are formatted approximately like journal articles in traditional printed journals.

Review of Literature

Anjaiah, M. & Kishore Kumar, M. (2016) here they expressed most of the respondents (42.97%) are aware about the 'UGC-INFONET Consortium. The majority of the respondents (37.19%) in Karkatiya University Use UGC-INFONET E-Journals for their research work.

Baladhandaayutham, A. (2016) conducted a survey on Awareness and Utilization of Electronic Journals by the Members of Faculty and Research Scholars of Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. Major findings of the study are: (85.5%) respondents access open source journals, (78.6%) respondents access E-Journals daily while (91%) of the respondents use e-journals for writing journal articles. (83.4%) respondents' access e-journals in library, (67.6%) of the respondents opinion about usefulness of e-journals is great extent.

Kaur, Amandeep (2018) carried out a study and the findings reveals that most of the users are awareness level (73%) from GNDU, (74%) from PUP out of 80 was quite appreciating. It was found that majority at researchers 52 (38.81%) from GNDU and 68 (53.13%) from PUP are using e-journals for their research work. The result also shows that the respondents were also satisfied with the e-journals.

Nanda, Archita (2017) organized a research study about the Use and Awareness of E-Journals by the Faculty and Research Scholars of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology. This study also indicates that faculty members (98.21%) and research scholars (100%) are aware about e-journals and online database subscribed by their library. Majority of faculty members (73.21%) and research scholars (83.05%) using e-journals for research purpose and department is the most preferred location for accessing e-journals.

P.M. Naushad Ali & Nisha, Faizul (2012) investigated the Use of E-Journals by IIT Delhi and Delhi University Library Users. The response on awareness of e-journals reveals that in IIT Delhi Library (95%) users are more aware than Delhi University Library (60%) users. Majority of users (63% IIT Delhi Library and (50%) Delhi University Library used for their research purpose.

Thanuskodi, S. (2011) made a attempt to conduct a research study about the User Awareness and Use of Online Journals at the Annamalai University Library: A Survey. He used survey method and questionnaire a tool of this study. The findings show that the majority of users are aware about the availability of online journals. The result reveals that (47.50%) of respondents want to access only online version of journals whereas only (33.75%) users want to read the printed journals but (18.75%) respondents want to use both online and printed journals, and (80%) use online journals for writing papers.

Thanuskodi, S. (2011) are discussing the User Awareness and Use of E-Journals among Education Faculty Members in Chennai: A Survey. This study results show that majority (92.30%) of the male users

were aware about the e-journals where as only (83.33%) of female respondents were aware about the availability of e-journals. The analysis reveals that most of the respondents (71.22%) use e-journals for writing papers.

Thanuskodi, S. (2011) had an attempt to conduct a study about the User Awareness and Use of Online Journals among Education Faculty Members in Coimbatore District: A Survey. The study indicates that respondents have high level of location for accessing online journals such as central library, department library. The main respondents have moderate level of location for accessing online journals such as computer center and other places.

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives are framed for the study:

1. To identify the awareness of the users about available online journals.
2. To study the purpose of using the online journals.
3. To find out the frequency of using online journals.
4. To study the preferred format for using online journals.
5. To find out the problems faced by the academic faculty members and student teachers while accessing online journals.
6. To determine the level of satisfaction by the academic faculty members and student teachers.
7. To suggest suitable recommendations to improve facilities and services related to the use of online journals.

Scope of the Present Study

1. The investigator has selected Seven B.Ed., Colleges in Erode District affiliated to Tamilnadu Teacher Education University.
2. Usage of Online Journals
3. For the present study, 166 Academic Faculty Members and 742 Student Teachers were selected as sample.

The participants included an Associated Professors, Assistant Professors and Professors.

Research Methodology Adopted

This study required the collection of data from the College of Education Faculty Members and Student Teachers of Erode District. This study is based on survey method of data collection followed. Out of 920 copies of questionnaires were distributed, 908 copies of questionnaire are received to the respondents. The questionnaires were received at the rate of (98.79%). The data collected from tabulated, interpreted and presented in form of this paper.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table I
College Wise Distribution of Respondents

Name of The Colleges	Staff Members		Student Teachers	
	Section - A		Section - B	
	No	%	No	%
Vellalar College of Education for Women (VCEW)	40	23.53	200	26.67
Nandha College of Education (NCE)	25	14.71	100	13.33
The Best College of Education (BCE)	22	12.94	90	12
Sarah College of Education for Women (SCEW)	20	11.76	100	13.33
Kumutha College of Education (KCE)	30	17.65	110	14.67
Avinasi Gounder Mariammal College of Education (AGMCE)	18	10.59	80	10.67
Adharsh Vidhayalaya College of Education (AVCE)	15	8.82	70	9.33
GRAND TOTAL =	170	100	750	100

Table – 1 (Section – A): indicates the college wise distribution of respondents. It could be noted that out of the total 170 Staff Member respondents. A maximum of 40 (23.53%) respondents are from Vellalar College of Education for Women. The least number of 15 (8.82%) respondents are from Adharsh Vidhayalaya College of Education.

Table – 1 (Section – B): indicates the college wise distribution of respondents. It could be noted that out of the total 750 Student Teachers respondents. A maximum of 200 (26.67%) respondents are from Vellalar College of Education for Women. The least number of 70 (9.33%) respondents are from Adharsh Vidhayalaya College of Education.

Table 2: Status Wise Distribution of Questionnaires

Status	Questionnaires Distributed		Questionnaires Received	
	No	%	No	%
Staff Members	170	18.48	166	18.28
Student Teachers	750	81.52	742	81.72
GRAND TOTAL =	920	100	908	98.70

Table – 2 shows that out of 920 questionnaires distributed 908 filled up questionnaires were received. The response rate is about (98.70)

out of 170 faculty members, 166 (18.28%) responded, out of 750 student teachers, 742 (81.72%) responded.

Table 3: Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Staff Members		Student Teachers	
	No	%	No	%
Male	70	42.17	198	26.68
Female	96	57.83	544	73.32
GRAND TOTAL =	166	100	742	100

Table – 3 (i) reveals that gender wise distribution of respondents. A maximum of 96 (57.83%) Female Staff Members out of 166 and 70 (42.17%) Male Staff Members have responded. The study conducted that both majorities of respondent are Female Staff Members.

Table – 3 (ii) reveals that gender wise distribution of respondents. A maximum of 640 (70.48%) Female Student Teachers out of 908 and 268 (29.52%) Male Student Teachers have responded. The study conducted that both majorities of respondent are Female Student Teachers.

Table 4: Category Wise Distribution of Respondents

Designation	Frequency		Department	Frequency	
	No	%		No	%
Professors	22	13.25	UG Students	564	76.01
Associate Professors	54	32.53	PG Students	142	19.14
Assistant Professors	90	54.22	M.Phil Students	36	4.85
Grand Total =	166	100	GRAND TOTAL =	742	100

Table – 4 (i) presents that designation wise distribution of responses. It was found that the majority of 90 (54.22%) of respondents are Assistant Professors, followed by 54 (32.53%) of respondents are Associate Professors and only 22 (13.25%) respondents are Professors.

Table – 4 (ii) presents that department wise distribution of responses. It was found that the majority of 564 (76.01%) of respondents are UG Students, followed by 142 (19.14%) of respondents are PG Students and only 36 (4.85%) respondents are M.Phil Students.

Table 5: Awareness about Using Online Journals

Description	Staff Members		Student Teachers	
	No	%	No	%
Fully Awareness	132	79.52	148	19.95
Not Awareness	34	20.48	594	80.05
GRAND TOTAL =	166	100	742	100

Table – 5 the result reveals that 132 (79.52%) of the Staff Members users were aware about the Online Journals whereas only 148 (19.95%) of Student Teachers respondents were aware about

the availability of Online Journals. The implication was the most of the respondents were Student Teachers.

Table 6: Purpose of Using Online Journals

Purpose	Staff Members		Student Teachers	
	No	%	No	%
For Teaching	64	38.55	188	25.34
For Research Work	16	9.64	136	18.33
For Writing Paper	14	8.43	72	9.70
For Studying Course Work	32	19.28	154	20.75
Updating Subject Knowledge	40	24.10	192	25.88
GRAND TOTAL =	166	100	742	100

Table – 6 It was found the of the Staff Members 64 (38.55%) use Online Journals for teaching purposes, 192 (25.88%) Student Teachers

use online journals for updated information on their subject areas.

Table 7: Use Search Strategy Of Online Journals

Search Strategy	Staff Members		Student Teachers	
	No	%	No	%
Keyword	40	24.10	180	24.26
Subject	32	19.28	172	23.18
Author	22	13.25	134	18.06
Date of Publication	18	10.84	60	8.09
Journal Title	28	16.87	126	16.98
Abstract	26	15.66	70	9.43
GRAND TOTAL =	166	100	742	100

Table – 7 indicates that 'keyword' search is the most popular search among both staff members

40 (24.10%) and student teachers 180 (24.26%) for search in online journals.

TABLE 8: FREQUENCY OF USING ONLINE JOURNALS

Frequency	Staff Members		Student Teachers	
	No	%	No	%
Almost Daily	52	31.33	175	23.58
Once in Two Days	40	24.10	210	28.30
Once in a Week	28	16.87	150	20.22
Once in a Fortnight	16	9.64	106	14.29
Once in a Month	22	13.25	84	11.32
Rarely	8	4.81	17	2.29
GRAND TOTAL =	166	100	742	100

Table – 8 reveals the frequency of using online journals. It could be noted that majority of the staff members 52 (31.33%) using online journals

almost daily, 210 (28.30%) student teachers were using online journals once in two days.

Table 9: Using Pattern Of Using Online Journals

USE PATTERN	STAFF MEMBERS		STUDENT TEACHERS	
	No	%	No	%
On Computer Screen	36	21.69	350	47.17
Download in Storage Devices	72	43.37	172	23.18
Take Printout	58	34.94	220	29.65
GRAND TOTAL =	166	100	742	100

Table – 9 The result reveals that 72 (43.37%) of staff members want to access only download the content in storage devices of using

online journals, and 350 (47.17%) student teachers want to access on the computer screen for using online journals.

Table 10: File Formats of Using Online Journals

File Formats	Staff Members		Student Teachers	
	No	%	No	%
HTML	68	40.96	288	38.81
PDF	86	51.81	410	55.26
NO PREFERENCE	12	7.23	44	5.93
GRAND TOTAL =	166	100	742	100

Table – 10 It was observed from the analysis that the majority of staff members 86 (51.81%) preferred PDF format and 410 (55.26%) student teachers using HTML format for using online journals.

Table 11: Problems in Accessing The Online Journals

Reasons	Staff Members		Student Teachers	
	No	%	No	%
Slow Access	36	21.69	94	12.67
Software Problems	22	13.25	102	13.75
Insufficient Terminals	28	16.87	136	18.33
Time Consuming	32	19.28	153	20.62
Lack of Training	18	10.84	127	17.11
Internet Connectivity	30	18.07	130	17.52
GRAND TOTAL =	166	100	742	100

Table – 11 Shows the problems in accessing by using online journals. In this study 36 (21.69%) staff members are faced by the slow access problem,

and among the student teachers 153 (20.62%) report that time consuming is their problem in accessing the online journals.

Table 12: Satisfaction of Accessing The Online Journals

Level	Staff Members		Student Teachers	
	No	%	No	%
Highly Satisfied	94	56.63	210	28.30
Satisfied	38	22.89	350	47.17
Average	22	13.25	128	17.25
Not Satisfied	12	7.23	54	7.28
GRAND TOTAL =	166	100	742	100

Table – 12 shows the satisfaction level of online journals. Among faculty members 94 (56.63%) respondents are highly satisfied using the online journals. Furthermore student teachers 350 (47.17%) respondents are satisfied using the online journals.

Finding of the Study

1. The finding of this survey is that a majority of 166 staff members and 742 student teachers for the questionnaire.
2. 132 (79.52%) of staff members and 594 (80.05%) student teachers users were aware about the online journals.
3. A majority of staff members and student teachers adopted 'keyword' searching.
4. 52 (31.33%) of staff members using online journals daily, and 210 (28.30%) student teachers using online journals once in two days.
5. A majority problem in using the online journals is slow access and inconvenient timing.

A majority 94 (56.63%) staff members are highly satisfied and 350 (47.17%) are satisfied with available information

Conclusion

The present study investigated the awareness and usage of online journals by academic faculty members and student teachers in college of education at erode. In my study female staff members and student teachers and high in count compared to male respondents. The study reveals that users who participated in this survey are almost aware of online journals. Most of the staff members and student teachers use online journals for their teaching purpose and updated information on their

subject areas. Among the formats, PDF web pages are the most preferred format. The study indicates that the staff members and student teachers of B.Ed are using the available online journals satisfactorily. The usage of online journals advantages the staff members and student teachers to access up to data information.

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