Chapter 16
Use of E–Journals by the Faculty Members, Researchers, and Students in the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Annamalai University:
A Survey

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ABSTRACT

This chapter reports the result of a survey conducted at Annamalai University to determine the extent to which users are aware and make use of e-journals. The study also examines the search pattern of e-journals. A questionnaire was distributed among the faculty members, research scholars, and post-graduate students to collect desired data. A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed to the selected sample of Faculty of Engineering and Technology; 180 valid samples were collected. The result reveals that 46.67% of respondents want to access only electronic version of journals, whereas only 23.88% of users want to read the printed journals, but 29.45% of respondents want to use both electronic and printed journals. The study found that most of the respondents 73.33% use e-journals for writing papers. 68.33% of respondents use e-journals for studying their course work, and 51.11% of respondents use them for research work. The analysis reveals that most of the respondents, 73.33%, use e-journals for writing papers.

INTRODUCTION

Electronic journals appeared during 1970s but became popularized in 1996 electronic journals are periodical literatures that are made available as individual titles via electronic medium, typically the World Wide Web. Electronic journals for all practical purposes may be defined as those journals which are available in electronic media. Some may be available on CD-ROM; a few may be available both in electronic media and in print.

Information seeking as stated by Krishan Kumar is "the process of collecting and receiving information by different means. The means may include published or unpublished materials, communicating with peers, communicating with librarians, etc." (Kumar, 1992). Information seeking behavior refers to "Who needs what kind of information for what reasons; how information is found, evaluated and used" (Kumar, 1990). Due to the unbridled increase in the generation of information and sophistication of information technologies, it has become very difficult for the information seekers from every field to effectively access, evaluate, and use information in various formats. The growth of Internet is undeniable affecting the education environment also. Every educational institution feels the necessity to have access to the Internet. Since 1990s, the use online resources in education has grown rapidly. Hence faculty members use wide variety of online information sources (Bindhu Sharma, 2012).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In Guruprasad and Nikam (2010), a research survey was undertaken amongst the 16 prestigious aerospace organisations in Bengaluru. The sampling boundary is restricted to these selected 16 organisations. Out of the 650 questionnaires distributed, 612 were received back, and finally 583 questionnaires suitable for the study were selected. The analysis is based on the responses from the aerospace scientists and engineers. The major

observations include: (1) aerospace engineering e-Journals are extremely important to aerospace scientists or engineers and are a major source of scientific and technical information, (2) the use patterns of aerospace engineering e-Journals amongst the 16 aerospace organisations are not uniform and hence show a heterogeneous nature in their use patterns. Also, the most preferred aerospace engineering e-Journals in the order of priority and usage (from the responses received) by this 'niche' aerospace engineering community are: *Aerospace Science and Technology; Progress in Aerospace Sciences; Journal of Aerospace Engineering; IEEE Transactions on Electronics and Aerospace Systems; Web of Science*; Online Journals: *Aerospace; Journal of Turbo and Jet Engines; The Journal of Failure Analysis and Prevention* (ASM International); *European Space Bulletin–ESA; Informatics–J Gate*; and *International Journal of Satellite Communications and Networking*.

Kannappanavar and Rajanikanta's (2008) paper highlights the use of e-learning resources in medical colleges. The study has found that Medical education popularized only after the independence of the country. It is found that majority of the colleges under the study area have e-information resources, e-databases. Almost all colleges under study are also becoming members of a consortium. As far as the infrastructure facilities are concerned, almost all colleges under study have provided very good infrastructure facilities to their libraries to serve their clients effectively.

Lohar and Roopashree (2006) have analyzed the collected data to cover the use of electronic resources and how the electronic resources have improved the academic career of the faculty and also the problems that are faced in using the electronic resources. They conclude that the main intention of the use of electronic resources has been the academic interest of the users.

Barbara J. Bergman (2005) has discussed the position of electronic resources as a specialty to deal with the management of digital resources,

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