



AWARENESS AND USE OF E-JOURNALS: A STUDY OF GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR AND PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA

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ABSTRACT

Electronic journal is a growing phenomenon. It saves the space and delivery problems of libraries. It also facilitates the user with search, download, portability and many other features. The present study is based on a survey of use of electronic journals by researchers of Punjabi University, Patiala and Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar. The present study revealed the awareness and purpose of using e-journals. The stratification level of users from e-journals is also discussed in the study. The collected data represented graphically.

KEYWORDS: e-journal, researchers, information seeking behavior, Internet, Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjabi University.

INTRODUCTION

Rapid growth in Information Communication Technology (ICT) has led to the enhancement of publishing industry and increased reliance on e-resources as compared to print resources. E-books, e-journals, e-newspapers, e-magazines, e-databases constitute the e-resources. A shift has occurred from print resources to online/electronic resources. A similar shift has occurred from traditional reading to online/on-screen reading. People are relying more on e-resources due to the advantages like round the clock availability, desktop delivery, currency, rapid communication, dynamic format, searchable text, less storage space and rising cost of print resources. Journals which are considered to be the vital sources of primary information are capable of providing latest information on nascent as well as significant topics. A digital version of a print journal, or a journal-like electronic publication with no print counterpart made available via the Web, e-mail, or other means of Internet access is called an e-journal.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To ascertain awareness and acceptance of e-journals.
- To explore the use of electronic journals.
- To study the purpose of utilization of e-journals.
- To ascertain the frequency of using e-journals.
- To study the preferred format for using e-journals.
- To study the satisfaction level of users.
- To make the comparison



SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study deals with the awareness and use of electronic journals. The scope of the study is to examine the awareness of the researchers of the universities regarding the e-journals. The study has

been confined to the users of the e-journals at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (GNDU) and Punjabi University, Patiala (PUP). Both the universities are situated in Punjab state.

During the 500 year of birth of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in 1969, it was decided to set up a university in his name. The Guru Nanak Dev University came into being on November 24, 1969 under act 21 of the Punjab Government. Spread over a stretch of 500 acres towards the west of the city, Guru Nanak Dev University presents a picture of modern architecture. It is highly innovative in designing its teaching and research programmes and offers a comprehensive range of general and applied courses. At present, more than 5000 students are studying on the Campus, All India Services Training Centre, Instrumentation Centre, Computer Centre, 24 hour Internet facility, Placement Unit etc. To promote research among its faculty and students, almost all the departments have been provided with independent computer facilities, Internet connectivity and departmental libraries. Over the years, the University has built up an excellent academic infrastructure in the form of a well-stocked library, state-of-the-art laboratories and Academic Staff.

Punjabi University, Patiala is the second university of the world to be named after language, the first being the Hebrew University, Israel. Majority of the students obtaining admission to various courses being offered by this university are from rural areas. The university campus spreads over 600 acres of land, it has a faculty of 500 teachers imparting instruction and guidance to more than 9,000 students in a multi-faceted, multi-pronged and multi-faculty environment comprising 65 Teaching and Research Departments on its Campus, five Regional Centres, six Neighbourhood Campuses and 166 Colleges affiliated to it.

Keeping in view the above mentioned objectives, a structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data from users accessing e-journals available online relating to various disciplines at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar and Punjabi University, Patiala (PUP). The questionnaire contained relevant questions pertaining to awareness with respect to e-journals. For this purpose, 100 questionnaires are distributed among Ph.D. researchers in both the universities. Out of the 100 questionnaires distributed, 80 valid questionnaires from both the universities are collected and then data was analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and graphically represented in this paper.

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

Singh (2009) has discussed the print and e-journals in detail. The author stated the definitions, differences, merits and demerits of the print as well as the e-journals. The author also justified the transaction of print to electronic media by discussing the advanced features of it.

Brar (2012) conducted a survey of library users of Punjabi university Patiala to examine the awareness and use of e-journals. The author collected the data with the help of questionnaire and presented graphically using the percentage. The study disclosed the purpose of using e-journals, location of accessing e-journals, frequency of use, and level of satisfaction of the library users.

Amandeep and others (2017) studied the use of the Internet for reading. The study is based on primary data collected from postgraduate students and Ph.D. researchers of Punjabi university, Patiala. The paper presents the results of 80 students and researchers on the various parameters. The study reveals that the students and researchers were more dependable on the Internet and e-resources than printed publications.

Bhupinder and others (2017) conducted a survey of 500 students from different universities of north India for examine the utilization of Internet based resources. A structured questionnaire was used for collection of data. The study discovered that all the students were using the internet and internet based sources and services. To get required information, search engines, websites, e-resources, subject gateways, portals, blogs, and Wikipedia were used in order of preference. Majority of the students had knowledge and awareness about social networking sites.

Brar and others (2018) made a precise attempt to be acquainted with the awareness among researchers of library and information science. The study while discussing the research plan, the present study is an empirical approach to recognise the selected patterns. To conduct a methodological study, total

120 respondents, formally affiliated to the subject of LIS, have been taken into consideration. The awareness, access and use of e-journals among researchers of LIS have been examined.

Data Analysis
Population Study

Table 1: Population studied

Gender	GNDU	PUP
Male	50 (62%)	50 (62%)
Female	30 (38%)	30 (38%)
Total	80 (100%)	80 (100%)

Table1 shows that a total of 80 researchers are selected for the study. The gender disparity between the researchers under the study is also depicted in this table. 50 male respondents and 30 female respondents each from GNDU and PUP are studied who access the e-journals via the Internet.

Awareness about e-journals

Table 2: Awareness of e-journals

Gender	GNDU		PUP	
	Aware	Not Aware	Aware	Not Aware
Male	46 (92%)	04 (08%)	48 (96%)	02 (04%)
Female	27 (90%)	03 (10%)	26 (87%)	04 (13%)
Total	73 (91%)	07 (09%)	74 (92%)	06 (08%)

Table 2 depicts the awareness relating to e-journals among the selected researchers. It is found that 46 males and 27 females from GNDU and 48 males and 26 females from PUP are aware about e-journals. Four males from GNDU and two from PUP and three females from GNDU and four from PUP respectively that means a total of 07 from GNDU and 06 from PUP were not aware about the e - journals. However the awareness level (73 from GNDU, 74 from PUP out of 80) was quite appreciating.

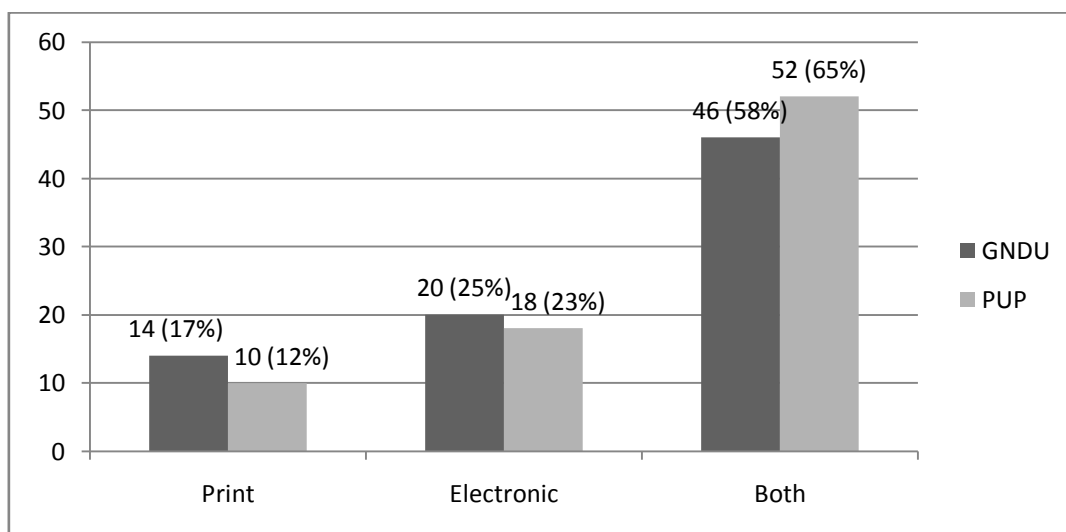


Fig. 1: preference level of users

Table 3 shows the preference level of print and electronic journals. 14 and 10 researchers from GNDU and PUP respectively prefer reading the printed version of the journals whereas 20 from GNDU and 10 from PUP showed their preference for electronic version of the journals, but majority of researchers - 46 from GNDU and 52 from PUP are using both printed and electronic versions of the journals. The percentage is high for the researchers of PUP in this regard.

Purpose of using e-journals

Table3: Using Purpose of e-Journal

Purpose	GNDU	PUP
For Research work	52	68
For writing Paper	35	24
Updating Subject Knowledge	45	32
Other Purpose	02	04

Table 4 When asked about the purpose for which they are using the e- journals, it was found that majority at researchers- 52 from GNDU and 68 from PUP are using e - journals for their research work. 35 from GNDU and 24 from PUP for writing research papers, 45 from GNDU and 32 from PUP for updating their subject knowledge.

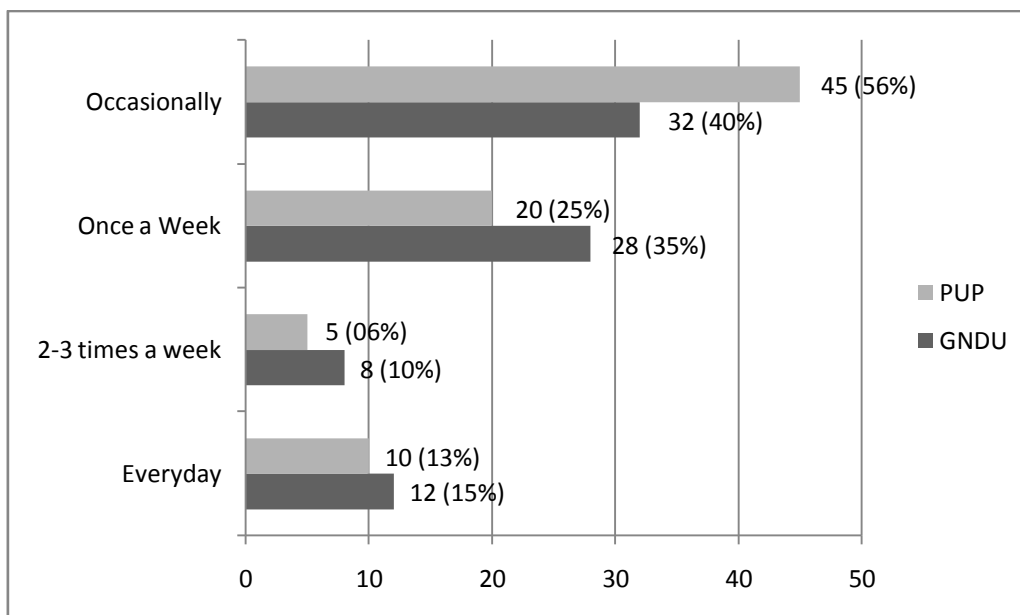


Fig. 2: Using frequency of researchers

Table 5 shows the frequency of using the e - journals by the researchers. 10 researchers from PUP and 12 from GNDU access the e - journals everyday, 5 from PUP and 8 from GNDU are accessing two - three times a week, 20 from PUP and 28 from GNDU access once week whereas access these journals occasionally. Percentage of researchers accessing the e - journals daily is high as 12 from GNDU.

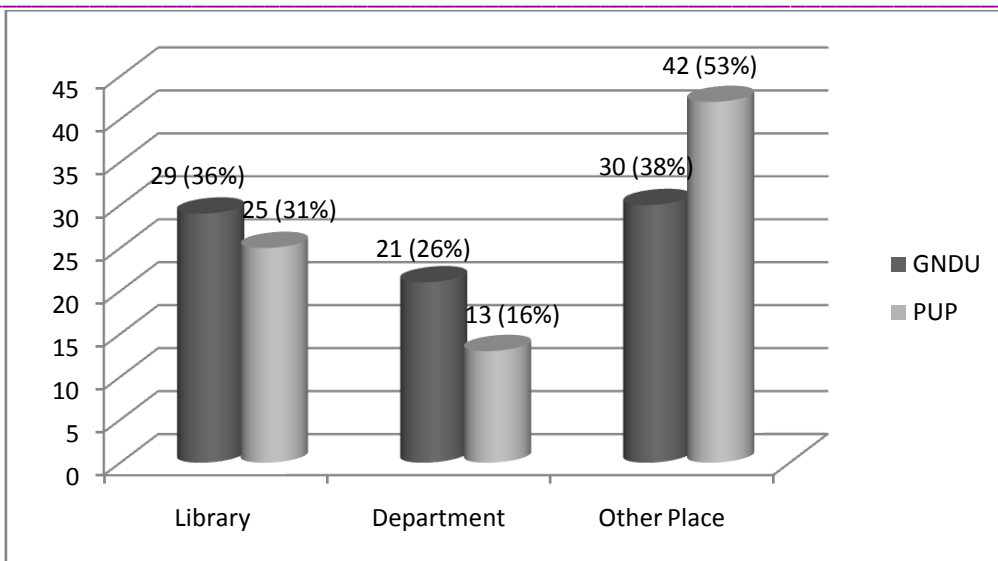


Fig. 3: Using Place

Table 6 When asked about the locations from where they access the e- journals, it was revealed that 29 researchers from GNDU and 25 from PUP access the e - journals from the university library, 21 from GNDU and 13 from PUP access from the respective departments and majority of researchers i.e 30 from GNDU and 42 from PUP are accessing the e-journals from other places like hostels, homes etc.

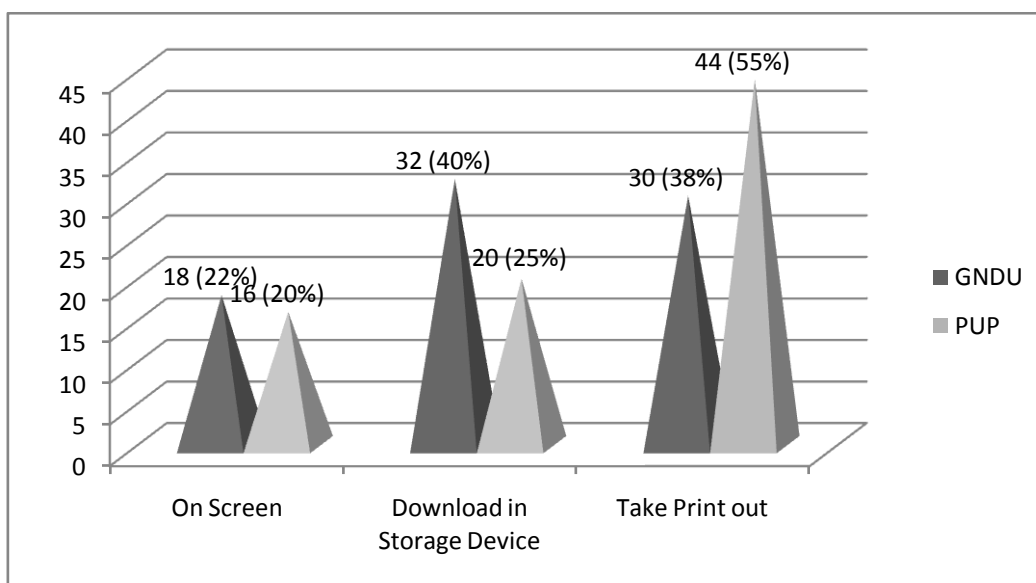


Fig. 4: Using style of e-journals

Table 7 shows the preference pattern for on screen, 18 downloading or taking print out of research paper. 18 researchers from GNDU and 16 from PUP prefer reading e - journals on their system screen, 32 from GNDU and 20 from PUP download e - journals articles in their storage devices whereas majority of researchers i.e 30 from GNDU and 44 from PUP prefer taking the print puts.

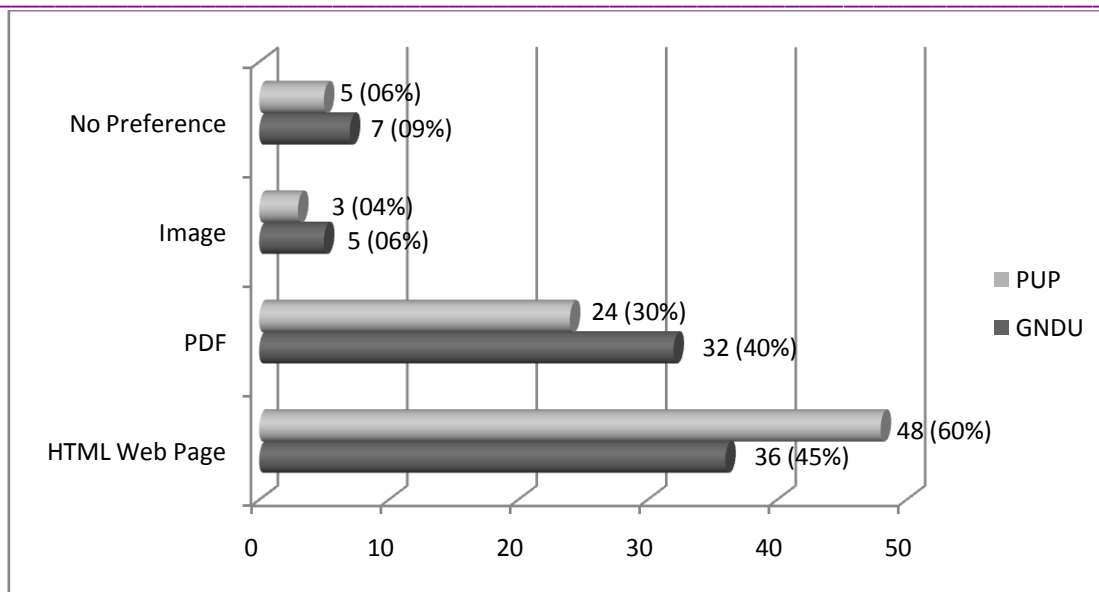


Fig. 5: Format preferences of e-journals

Table 8 depicts the formats of research paper and articles used by the researchers. Majority of researchers that is 36 from GNDU and 48 from PUP prefer the HTML format as they find it easy to read, dynamic in style and colour and ready to read (no downloading required). 24 from PUP and 32 from GNDU prefer PDF as it is easy to save and readily printable. The image format is also liked by 3 researchers from PUP and 5 from GNDU. 5 researchers from PUP and 7 from GNDU have no preference about the format.

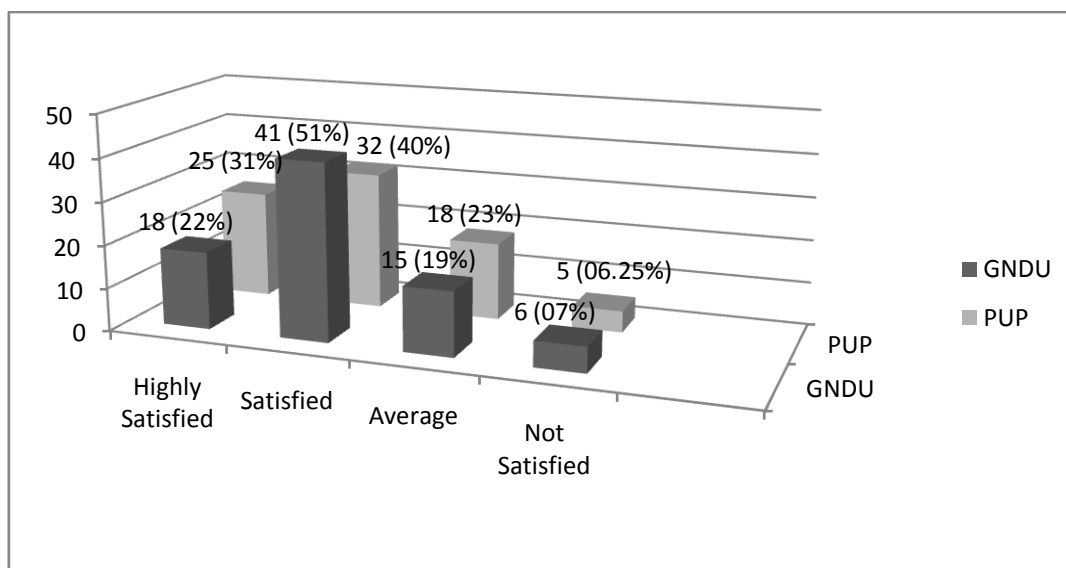


Fig 6: Satisfaction level of users

Table 9 reveals the satisfaction level of researchers pertaining to the using style, information presentation and searching style of e-journals. 18 researchers from GNDU and 25 from PUP are highly satisfied by the above mentioned criteria. 15 from GNDU and 18 from PUP have average satisfaction whereas 6 from GNDU and 5 from PUP are not satisfied with above criteria.

CONCLUSION

From the above study it has been observed that e-journals have become an important source for seeking and providing information. There is a wide acceptance of e-journals among the researchers in both the universities. The universities are enhancing their infrastructure to provide access to e-resources especially the e-journals through Internet and Wi-Fi networking in library, hostels, research scholar flats, etc. Among the formats, HTML web pages are the most preferred format. The researchers of both the universities are satisfied with the availability, presentation and searching style of the e-journals in their subjects. The usage and reliance on e-journals is predicted to increase in the near future.

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