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INFORMATION SEEKING PATTERNS OF USERS: A USAGE COMPARISON BETWEEN E-JOURNALS AND PRINT JOURNALS

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ABSTRACT

Information is playing a vital role in all the sectors of education. Various information sources are consulted by the uses for the purpose of education, research, self-updations etc. with a view of increasing efficiency in the academic field. The journals play a key role among all the information sources available. The developments in information technology and so as the initiation of e-journals have taken the academicians to new heights of education and research. E-journals became very popular in this century as the primary source of knowledge generation, acquisition and implementation. The evolution of e-journals and the existence of print journals have made it necessary to compare and evaluate the efficiency of both. The present paper confers a case study done at Dr. D.Y. Patil Arts, Commerce and Science College to assess the information seeking patterns among the library users.

KEYWORDS: e-journals, print journals, information technology, e-resources, ICT.

INTRODUCTION:

The education system today is stimulating young minds and developing research attitude among the students and the teachers. Journals have always remained as the primary source of information for research and other academic assignments. The concept of e-journals came two decades ago, which turned to be a landmark in the education system. Further, escalating developments in the field of ICT has given tremendous boost to electronic publishing. Electronic journals have come up as a tool and as a medium of scholarly communication for the researchers. Any information produced anywhere in the world is now published as a scholarly content in an electronic journal and made available to all the corners of the world. As mentioned in the Ulrich's list of worldwide serials, among the total 16000 journals published worldwide, 14000 were published in electronic form (Tenopir, 2002); whereas; Halloumeh and Jirjees (2016) find that there were 32805 print and e-journals in the Ulrich's list of worldwide serials followed by 20842 print only journals and 11963 only e-journals. Regardless of the gained popularity in a short period of time it is seen that the e-journals have not completely replaced the e-journals. Today most of e-journals come as a correspondently with the print ones.

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Background of Dr. D.Y. Patil Arts Commerce and Science College:

Dr. D.Y. Patil Arts Commerce and Science College was established under the umbrella of Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidya Pratishthan Society in 2001. It is a distinguished degree college affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University. The Dr. D.Y. Patil Arts Commerce and Science (DYPACS) College library is an invaluable resource for students, researchers and faculties of Arts, Commerce and Science programs. The college library is well equipped with large number of textbook, reference books, periodicals, journals and newspapers. The library receives 131 print journals out of which 93 are Indian and 38 are International journals. Besides this the library also provides access to eminent e-journals covering all the three faculties of the college. Total 3237 e-journals are subscribed by the library along with their print counterparts and it also subscribes to EBSCO database which consists of 8849 full text e-journals. The users are seen using the print journals as well as the e-journals and therefore a study to assess the journal services of the library was undertaken.

Scope of the study:

The present study is limited to Dr. DYPACS libraryand its journal services wherein a sample of 250 users was selected under random sample method. The users consisted of the faculty, students and the research students of the college. The present study is limited to a sample of highly used journals both in print and electronic form and its users.

Objectives of the study:

To find out the formats of journals preferred by the users
To find out the frequency of using print and e-journals
To find out the information seeking patterns of the users in relation to print and e-journals
To compare the use of print journals with electronic journals
To find out the advantages and disadvantages of e-journals
To find out the problems faced by the users while accessing e-journals
To suggest the measures to improve the facilities of e-journals services

Review of Literature:

Tajafari, M. (2017) finds that when it comes to make a choice between print and e-journals, the users from Iranian Universities choose the print journals; whereas Alia Arshad & Kanwal Ameen. (2017) concludes that the users prefer electronic versions of journals rather than print ones; whereas Boakye, E. (2017) finds that the users prefer to use e-journals, but if both the versions are available, they prefer both, print as well as electronic.

Trivedi, M., & Joshi, A. (2009); Kacherki, U., & Thombare, M.J. (2010); Halloumeh, K.A., & Jirjees, J.M. (2016) and Senthil and Margam (2017) finds that majority of users from the academic libraries use e-journals rather than print ones.

Methodology:

A structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to 250 users of the library out of which 201 (80.4%) questionnaire was received duly filled. Out of 201 respondents, 117 were the Post Graduate students of the college, 58 were the teachers and 26 were the research students who were either doing their Ph. D or M. Phil in various disciplines.

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Findings and Discussions:

There was a need to check the format of the journals preferred by the respondents. Therefore, they were asked about their preferable format and the responses received are tabulated in the following Table No. 1.

Table No. 1
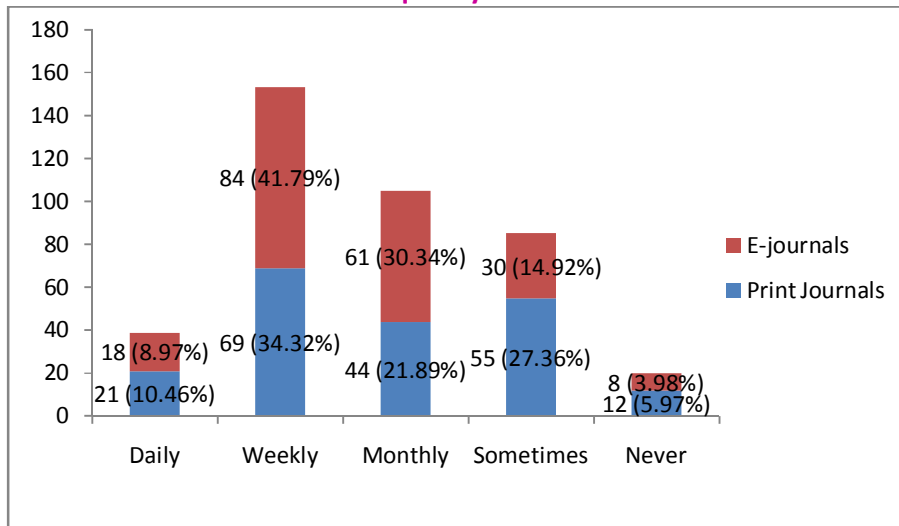### Format preferred by the respondents

Respondents	Print	Electronic	Both
PG students	37 (31.62%)	71 (60.68%)	9 (7.7%)
Teachers	13 (22.41%)	45 (77.59%)	-
Research students	-	21 (80.76%)	5 (19.24%)
Total	**50 (24.87%)**	**137 (68.15%)**	**14 (6.98%)**

It is seen from the above Table No. 1 that majority of the respondents i.e. 137 (68.15%) out of the total 201 respondents prefer electronic format of journals may be due to its advantages over print ones. It is followed by 50 (24.87%) respondents who prefer print format of journals may be because the journals of their interest might not be available in the library. And lastly only 14 (6.98%) prefer journals in both formats as they might be comfortable with both the formats.

Frequency of use:

The frequency of use of both the format of journals was analyzed and presented in the following Figure No. 1
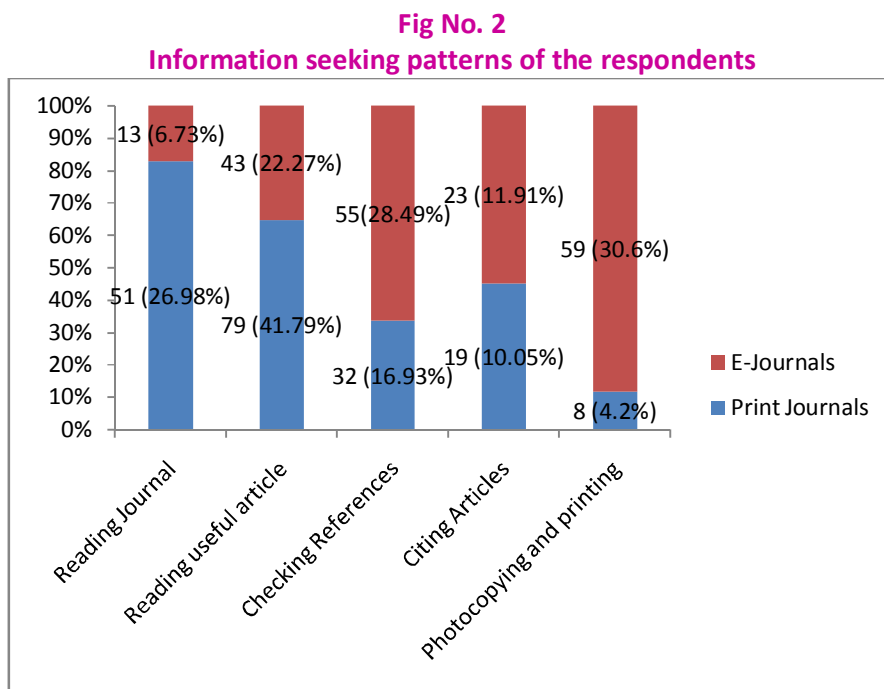
Fig No. 1
Frequency of use

It is seen from the above Figure No. 1 that in case of e-journals, majority of the respondents i.e. 84 (41.79%) use them weekly. It is followed by 61 (30.34%) respondents who use them monthly, 30 (14.92%) respondents who use e-journals sometimes and 18 (8.97%) respondents who use e-journals on daily basis. 8 (3.98%) respondents are also seen not using the e-journals because the journals of their interest may not be in the electronic form.

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In case of print journals, it is seen that 69 (34.32%) respondents use print journals weekly; followed by 55 (27.36%) respondents who use them sometimes, 44 (21.89%) respondents who use them monthly and 21 (10.46%) respondents who use print journals on daily basis. Further 12 (5.97%) respondents are also seen not using the print journals at all because they might be interested in using e-journals related to their subject.

However, the above analysis makes it clear that though e-journals have gained tremendous popularity, the print journals have not lost their recognition and are still used by the respondents.

Information seeking patterns of the respondents:

The attitude of the respondents was an important area of concern regarding the patterns in which the respondents seek information. The respondents may use journals in various ways like, reading the journal, reading useful articles, checking the references, citing articles and photocopying and printing. The following Figure No. 2 states the information seeking patterns of the users for the journals, both in electronic and print form:

Fig No. 2
Information seeking patterns of the respondents

It is seen earlier that out the total 201 respondents, 189 (94.02%) use print journals and 193 (96.01%) respondents use e-journals. Therefore, the above Figure No. 2 is based on 189 respondents who use print journals and 193 respondents who use e-journals.In case of e-journals, majority of the respondents i.e. 59 (30.6%) use e-journals for photocopying and printing; followed by 55 (28.49%) respondents who use them for checking references; 43 (22.27%) respondents using them for reading useful articles, 23 (11.91%) respondents use them for citing articles and 13 (6.73%) respondents use e-journals for reading.
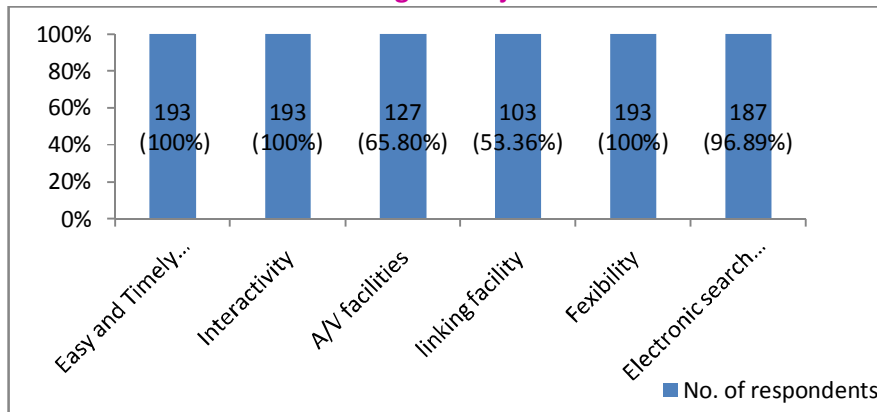
In case of print journals, it is seen that 79 (41.79%) respondents use print journals for reading useful articles; followed by 51 (26.98%) respondents who use print journals for reading; 32

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(16.98%) respondents using them just for checking references, 19 (10.05%) respondents using them for citing articles and only 8 (4.2%) respondents use print journals for photocopying and printing. Therefore, the above figure makes it clear that majority of the respondents mostly use e-journals mostly to take a photocopy or printouts; whereas most of them use print journals for reading useful articles.

Advantages of e-journals:

E-journals are widely accepted allover because of its multiple advantages that it possesses. The increasing use of e-journals in Dr. D.Y. Patil Arts Commerce and Science College created the need to find out the reason behind the e-journal usage. Therefore, in this regard the respondents were asked to give the advantages of the e-journals and the responses received from them are mentioned in the following Figure No. 3.
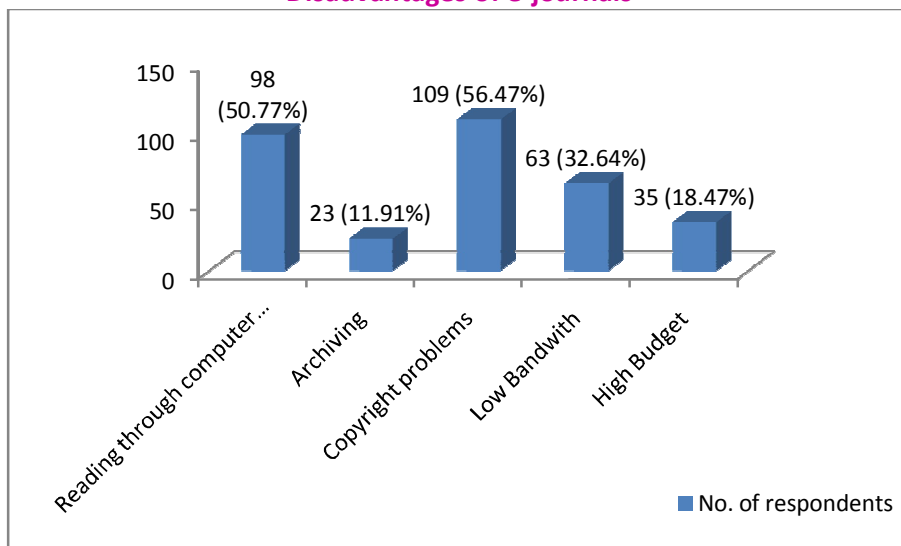
Figure No. 3
Advantages of e-journals

The above Figure No. 3 states that all 193 (100%) respondents use e-journals due to its several advantages like easy and timely access, interactivity and flexibility. Further majority of the respondents i.e. 187 (96.89%) feel that 'electronic search capability' of the e-journals is another advantage which attracts them towards using e-journals; followed by 127 (65.80%) respondents who feel that inclusion of inclusion of A/V facilities is an advantage of e-journal and 103 (53.36%) respondents who feel that linking (hyper linking) facility of the e-journals is another advantage.

Disadvantages of e-journals:

Apart from several advantages of e-journals, some disadvantages were also identified by the respondents which are mentioned in the following Figure No. 3.

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Fig No. 4
Disadvantages of e-journals

The above Figure No. 4 states that majority of the respondents i.e. 109 (56.47%) who use e-journals feels that copyright problems are one of the disadvantages of the e-journals; followed by 98 (50.77%) respondents who feel that reading from computer screen as another disadvantage of e-journals, 63 (32.64%) respondents have identified the low bandwidth of the college as an disadvantage, 35 (18.47%) respondents feel that the high and ever raising budgets of the e-journals can be a disadvantage of e-journals and 23 (11.91%) respondents feel that the archiving of e-journals can be one of the disadvantages of the e-journals.

FINDINGS:
The following are the major findings of the present study:
1. Majority of the respondents i.e. 137 (68.15%) prefer e-journals; whereas 50 (24.87%) respondents prefer print journals and 14 (6.98%) prefer journals in both the formats.
2. Majority of the respondents i.e. 84 (41.79%) are found to be using e-journals weekly; whereas 69 (34.32%) respondents use print journals weekly.
3. 8 (3.98%) respondents are found to be not using e-journals at all; whereas 12 (5.92%) respondents are found to be not using print journals at all.
4. In case of e-journals, majority of the respondents i.e. 59 (30.6%) seek e-journals for photocopying and printing; followed by 55 (28.49%) respondents who seek them for checking references, 43 (22.27%) respondents seek e-journals for reading useful articles within them, 23 (11.91%) seek them for citing articles from them may be for their further research and 13 (6.73%) respondents seek e-journals just for reading purpose.
5. In case of print journals, majority of the respondents i.e. 79 (41.79%) seek print journals for reading useful articles from them; followed by 51 (26.98%) respondents who seek   print journals for only reading through them, 32 (16.98%) respondents who seek them for checking references, 19 (10.05%) respondents who seek print journals only for photocopying and printing purpose.

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6. In spite of some disadvantages of e-journals, it is found that many respondents use them due to their several advantages like easy and timely access, interactivity, A/V and linking facilities, and flexibility.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. The library should try and subscribe the back volumes of the e-journals so that the   problems of archiving may be resolved.
2. It is recommended that the internet speed of the college should be upgraded.
3. It is recommended that the budgeting problems should be considered by the college management to overcome the problem of subscribing less number of e-journals.

CONCLUSION:

Dr. D.Y. Patil Arts, Commerce and Science College started the process to add online journals to the collection with very stringent budget. The college also subscribes to online database EBSCO. Both the forms of journals, i.e. print and the electronic are used by the respondents. However, it is seen that the electronic form of journals are preferred mostly by the respondents. However, it is the duty of the Librarian to maintain the balance between the uses of journals in both the forms. It is seen that most of the respondents seek e-journals for taking printouts and photocopying the same. It again challenges the duties of the Library to educate them about the copyright issues of the same. It is revealed from the resent study that e-journals are referred by most of the respondents than the print ones. However, the popularity of print ones is not completely diminished.

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