Use of UGC-Infonet E-Journals by Research Scholar and Faculty member of Central University of Karnataka: A Case Study

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Abstract

Attempt has been made to know the users' requirement of online journals in general and to know the use of online journals that are available through UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium in particular. A questionnaire survey was conducted amongst 120 users both research scholars and Faculty members of various departments like history, psychology, management, English, commerce and economics in the Central University of Karnataka. Reveals that there is a demand for more e-journal titles although a substantial number of users (61.90 percent) are satisfied with the existing model of UGC-Infonet Consortium. Concludes that comprehensive training on availability and usability would be of great help to the users.

Keywords: Electronic Resources, UGC-INFONET, Information Technology

1. Introduction

Information technology (IT) has revolutionised the information handling activities in the academic libraries during the past few years. The promising trend in the development of information services with effective networking of libraries will facilitate the optimum utilisation of information resources. Electronic information services are attracting reader's attention in today's network environment. This changing scenario in library environment has arisen for the need and use of e-journals along with print version. Electronic journals (e-journals) bring new challenges before the library and information professionals to give full text access to scholarly publications both in print and electronic version to its end users. (1) A library plays a pivotal role in ensuring the success of higher degree of research. University libraries are expected to provide cost effective and reliable access to information using the state-of-the art information technology tools.

The Central University of Karnataka Library, Gulbarga, provides access to information not just to widen the horizons of the users' knowledge but also to support a host of their learning activities that range from book learning and newspaper reading to using e-journals and reading e-books.

2. Objectives of the study

♦ To understand the brief usage of electronic services.

♦ To find out the knowledge of research scholar's and faculty members about UGC- Infonet e - resources;

♦ To find out the purpose of using UGC- Infonet e - resources;

♦ To know the significance of UGC- Infonet e - journals over print journals;

♦ To understand the level of satisfaction, search technique & rate of using the facility;

♦ To find out the problems faced by the research scholars and faculty members in accessing e – journals

3. Data Analysis

To meet the objectives of the data so collected, a total of 120 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 80 were duly filled accounting to 66%.

Table 1: User's Survey Statistics

Sl. No.	Type of users	Questionnaire distributed	Questionnaire received	Percentage (%)
1	Faculty:	50	20	25
2	Research Scholars	70	60	75
	Total	120	80	100

Source: Primary data

It is observed from the table that, the researcher has categorized users into faculty members (25%) and Research Scholars (75). It shows that the response rate among research scholars is more than faculty members.

Table 2: Sex Wise Distribution of Respondents (N =80)

Sex	No. of Respondents
Male	50
Female	30
Total	80

Further an attempt has been too made to categories the respondents into Male and Female. From the above table, male members 50 and female members are 30.

Table 3: Age Wise Distribution of Respondents (N = 80)

Age Group	Response	% of Respondents
22-32	40	50
33-42	20	25
43-52	20	25
Above 52	-	
Total	80	100

The table-3 shows that age wise distribution of respondents. Among faculty, the respondents in the age group of 22-32 are more frequent users of library resources. Research Scholars age group 33-42 result yielded 25% and similarly in the age group 43-52 result yielded 25%. It shows that over all age group 22-32 are quite vibrant in making use of library resources.

Table 4: Qualification Wise Distribution of Respondents (N = 80)

Qualification	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
M.Phil.	60	75
Ph. D.	20	25
Total	80	100

Further an attempt has been made to distribute the same qualification wise, it shows that M.Phil respondents are more than the Ph.D students because of there is more strength in the M.Phil students category.

Table 5: Designation Wise Distribution of Respondents (N=80)

Designation	Respondents	% of Respondents
Research Scholars	40	50
Prof.	10	12.5
Associate Prof.	10	12.5
Asst. Prof.	20	25
Total	80	100

The above table-5 depicts that designation wise distribution resulted research scholars 50%, followed by Assistant professor 25% and equally distribution in the Professor and Associate professor 12.5%.

Table 6: User Awareness about UGC–Infonet (N = 80)

Designation	Yes	No
Research Scholars	35	5
Prof.	10	-
Associate Prof.	10	-
Asst. Prof.	20	-
Total	75	5

Further an attempt has been made to know the awareness among the library users about UGC-Infonet e-resources. It shows that research scholars are more familiar about UGC-Infonet e-resources respondents are resulted 35, followed by Assistant professor 20, Professor and Assistant professor 10 respondent.

Table 7: Usefulness of E- Resources from E-Journals of UGC–Infonet (N = 80)

Usefulness	No. of Respondents	Percent
Highly Useful	60	75
Useful	15	18.75
Less Useful	5	6.25
Not Useful	-	-
Total	80	100

The above table-7 shows that usage has been categories systematically to assess the users response. Highly useful respondents resulted 75%, followed by 18.75% useful and less useful 6.25%.

Table 8: E-Journal Access Facility is Provided Respondents (No = 80)

Designation	Computer net browsing	Library	Department	Residences and Hostels	All Locations
Research Scholars	20	20	-	-	-
Prof.	-	-	10	-	-
Associate Prof.	-	-	10	-	-
Asst. Prof.	-	-	20	-	-
Total	20	20	40	-	-

The above table-8 depicts that the e-journals accessibility has made provision to access at computer net, library, department, residence and hostel and all locations. Users are more comfortable to access the e-resources at computer lab and library. Further some of them where shown keen interest in accessing the e-resources at their department.

Table 9: Preference of the E-Journal Format Respondents (N = 80)

Format	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Print	30	37.5
Electronic	40	50
Both	10	12.5
Total	80	100

The above table-9 shows that the users are more comfortable in reading the electronic format result yielded 50% and followed by print format 37.5%.

Table 10: Preference of E-Journals Databases (N = 80)

Name of the Database	No. of Respondent	Percentage
JSTOR	30	37.5
Cambridge University Press	5	6.25
JCCC	10	12.5
Taylor and Francis	15	18.75
ISID	-	
Springer Link	-	
Economics & Political Weekly	-	
Wiley – Blackwell	20	25
Total	80	100

Further an attempt has been made to know the preference given to access the e-resources among eight databases JSTOR is more useful that is 37.5%, Wiley-Blackwell 25% and followed by Taylor and Francis 18.75%.

Table 11: Preference of Downloading Format Respondents (No = 80)

Format	No. of Respondent	Percentage
PDF	75	93.7
HTML	5	6.25
Total	80	100

The above table-11 depicts that preference given to download the e-resources more result yielded 93.7%. Similarly the second format widely accessible 6.25%.

Table 12: Purpose of Using Electronic Resources Respondents (No = 80)

Purpose	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Study & Teaching	20	25
Publishing Journal Article	10	12.5
Research & project	40	50
All	10	12.5
Total	80	100

An attempt has been made to know using the e-resources for research and project work 50%, similarly 20% for study and teaching purpose and followed by 12.5% for publishing the articles.

Table 13: Frequency of Usage of E-Resources Respondents (No = 80)

Frequency	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Daily	10	12.5
Weekly	15	18.7
Fortnightly	20	25
Monthly	35	43.7
Total	80	100

The above table depicts that 43.7% respondent users are more in monthly frequency. Similarly 18.7% weekly and 12.5% daily.

Table 14: Problems Facing in Using E-Resource Respondents (N = 80)

Users faced problems	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Limited Working Hours	30	37.5
Less Internet Speed	2	2.5
Searching	25	31.2
Downloading Articles	10	12.5
Awareness program	13	16.2
Total	80	100

Table-14 shows that 37.5% users expressed regarding the limited working hours and 31.2 problems faced in searching and similarly and 12.5 respondent expressed 12.5%.

4.   Suggestions received from the Respondents (As feedback received from the Users)

The findings of the study revealed majority of the respondents use electronic resources and   e-journals for their benefits, the respondents suggested the following to encourage users in the use of Electronic resources & E-journals:

1. Library working hours should be increased at least 12 hours (8a.m to8p.m);

2. to increase the number of computers with Internet access;

3. to provide on-line facilities for students in their hostels and their departments;

4. to develop infrastructure facilities ;

5. to subscribe to more e-journals;

6. Creation of awareness among users about different on-line resources and INFLIBNET   E-journal Consortium;

7. Adequate Uninterrupted power supply should be ensured ; and

8. Extensive training programme should be organized about the e-resources and e-journals which are available in the university library.

5. Conclusion

E-Journals are bringing further added dimensions to the librarianship. The new service has a vast potential of providing a quality service. However, in the context of shrinking budgets, it is very essential to evaluate each e-journal, so that the expenditure is justified. As far as the inertia displayed by the users, it is bound to come down with time.

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