USE OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS BY THE RESEARCHERS OF PDPM-IIITDM, JABALPUR CENTRAL LIBRARY: A STUDY

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Abstract

The user study has been conducted in Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing Library (IITDM), Jabalpur. The paper deals with experiences of research staff and PhD scholars about various issues relating to electronic journals. The study highlights the level of use of available Electronic Journals and user satisfaction. Questionnaires were personally handed over to 99 research staff and research scholars. Based on the analysis and observations, some suggestions have been set forth to make the service more beneficial for the academic community of the PDPM-IIITDM under study.

Keywords: Electronic Journals, PDPM-IITDM, Users Study, Research Scholars.

Introduction

Technological innovation has dramatically increased the rate of conversion of knowledge, information and data into electronic format. E-journals have become an essential resource in learning process. It is the responsibility of the library to ensure that valuable e-journals are optimally utilized by the users or not. Electronicjournals represent a significant and growing part of the academic library's offerings. As demand for e-journals increases, librarians are faced with a new set of decisions related to acquisitions and services. Most libraries retain both print and electronic copies.The advancement of science and technology has made a tremendous improvement and change almost in all walks of life. E-journals have provided better storage, browsing, searching and navigational capabilities for effective and efficient

use of information. The electronic environment has also provided easy and fast resource sharing options. The usage of e-journals can be easily measured which is not the case with print environment.

E-Journals

In an academic environment scholarly communication is a critical component of knowledge with the emergence of Internet, the e-journals are going more important on internet and the e-journal are undergoing a drastic change and becoming web centre. E-journals are serially published and distributed nationally and internationally via networks. These include both online and also journals which has a print counterpart.

Objective of the Study

The following are the important objectives of the study

To study the satisfaction level of users regarding the e-journals service in the library.

To study the satisfaction level of users regarding infrastructural facilities provided by the library for accessing e-journals.

To suggest measures for improvement of the use of e-journals.

Limitation of the Study

This study includes only the Research staff and Research Scholars of PDPM- IIITDM library, Jabalpur in India.

Methodology

For this study, the investigatorshave conducted a survey and have used questionnaire as tool for data collection. A structured questionnaire covering the relevant aspects of the study was distributed among the research staff and research scholar students of IIITDM, Jabalpur. A random sample of 99 has been chosen and questionnaires were personally handed over to the 99 research scholars and research staff and got it filled.

Data Analysis and Interpretation: The data collected through questionnaire was organized, tabulated and interpreted by using simple statistical methods.

Table 1: Respondents by professional status

Category	No. of questionnaire Distributed	Completed questionnaire received
Research Staff	4 (4 %)	3 (4 %)
Research Scholar	95 (96 %)	82 (96 %)

Total	**99 (100%)**	**85 (100%)**

The analysis of data in table 1 shows that the respondents are mainly the research scholars of PDPM-IIITDM.

Table 2: Purpose of Using E-Journals

Purpose of Using E-Journals	No. of Responses	Percent (%)
Curriculum related Study	6	7%
Research Report	35	41%
Research Publications	28	33%
For locating and downloading information	5	6%
Self-improvement	5	6%
To update current information	6	7%

From table 2, it is observed that the most common purpose for which the researchers are using the e-journals is for writing research reports. They also use e-journals for writing research papers.

Table 3: Frequency of Using E-Journals

Frequency of Using E-Journals	No. of Responses	Percent (%)
Almost Daily	72	85%
Twice in a Week	7	8%
Thrice in a Week	6	7%
Once a Week	-	
Once a fortnight	-	
Once a month	-	

From the table above, it is inferred that the entire research community of PDPM-IIITDM is accessing e-journals very frequently. Most of them (85%) are accessing daily while rest of them are accessing e-journals 2/3 in a week.

Table 4: Place of Accessing E-Journals

Place of Accessing E-Journals	No. of Responses	Percent (%)
Institute Library	9	11%
Hostel	-	
Computer Lab	73	86%
Off Campus	-	
Research staff cabin	3	3%

Table 4 summarises that most of the respondents (86%) access e-journals through Institute computer lab, while nobody is accessing it off campus or from hostel.

Table 5: Methods of Searching E-Journals

Methods of Searching E-Journals	No. of Responses	Percent (%)
Through Search engine	11	13%
Through Websites directly	64	75%
Through Library Portals	10	12%

The analysis of the data in table 5 reveals that the common (75%) method of searching e-journals in PDPM-IIITDM is through websites of online. The other method of searching articlesis through search engines (13%) and library portals which are equally popular.

Table 6: Approaches for Searching Article

Searched By	No. of Responses	Percent (%)
Subject Heading	26	31%
Keyword	27	32%
Title	20	23%
Author	12	14%

From table 6, it is inferred that Keyword based searches and Subject Heading based searches are almost equally deployed for conducting e-Journal searches in the said institute.

Table 7: Methods of Dealing Articles in Foreign Language

Methods of Dealing Article	No. of Responses	Percent (%)
Try to get translation	6	7%
Ignore such articles	10	12%
Refer to Abstract only which is available in English	69	81%

The analysis of the data in table 7 reveals that the method of dealingarticle in foreign languageis restricted to using abstract only which is available in English. Only 12% ignore such article and try to get translation 6 (7%).
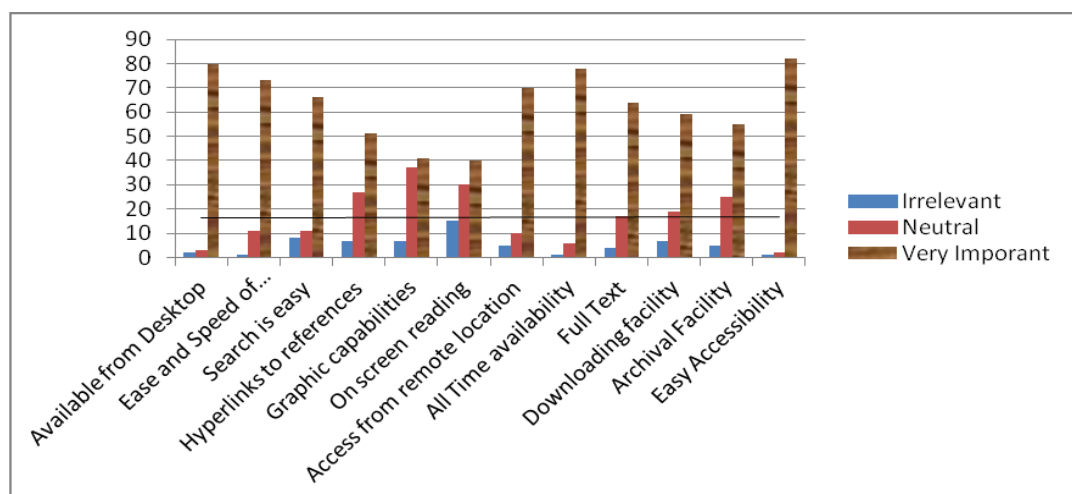
Table 8: Preferred Format for Reading Articles

Preferred Format for Reading Article	No. of Responses	Percent (%)
HTML	9	11%
PDF	58	68%
Print Copy	18	21%

Table 8 summarises that most of the respondents (68%) prefer e-journals inPDF format. Only 21% users prefer to read e-journals in print copy while 11% respondents access article through HTML format.

Table 9: Advantages of Online Journals

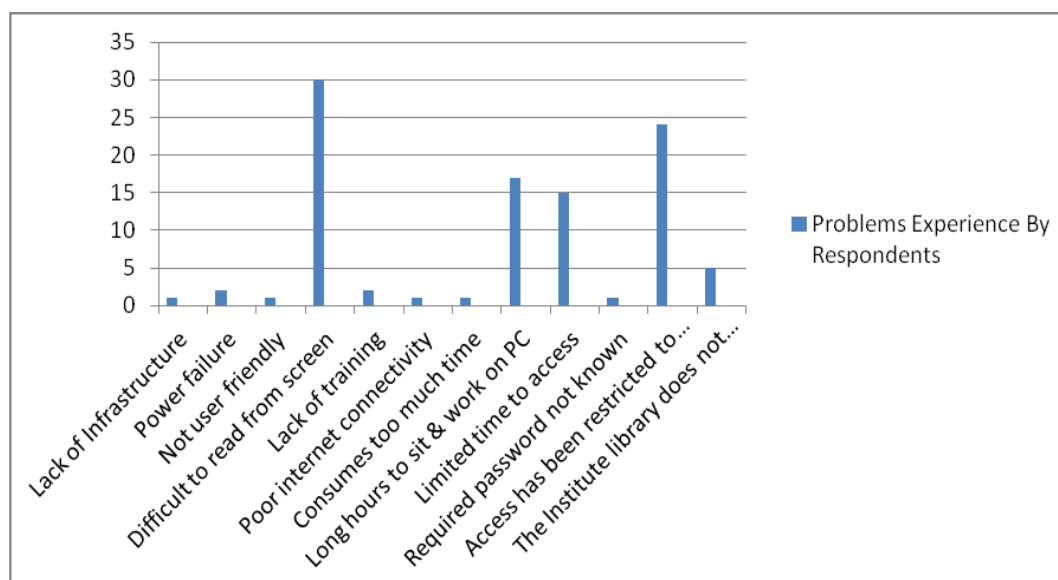| Advantages of Online Journals	Irrelevant	Neutral	Very Important
Available from Desktop	2 (2%)	3 (4%)	80 (94%)
Ease and Speed of publication	1 (1%)	11 (13%)	73 (86%)
Search is easy	8 (9%)	11 (13%)	66 (78%)
Hyperlinks to references	7 (8%)	27 (32%)	51 (60%)
Graphic capabilities	7 (8%)	37 (44%)	41 (48%)
On screen reading	15 (18%)	30 (35%)	40 (47%)
Access from remote location	5 (6%)	10 (12%)	70 (82%)
All Time availability	1 (1%)	6 (7%)	78 (92%)
Full Text	4 (5%)	17 (20%)	64 (75%)
Downloading facility	7 (8%)	19 (22%)	59 (70%)
Archival Facility	5 (6%)	25 (29%)	55 (65%)
Easy Accessibility	1 (1%)	2 (2%)	82 (97%)

(Note: Figures in Parenthesis denote percentage)

(Fig: Advantages of Online Journals)

Table 7 reveals that 97% users found easy accessibility of e-journals as the most important advantage of e-journals. The second rated advantage of e-Journals is its availability from desktop.On screen readingof e-journals was found to be the biggest hurdle in using e-journals. 82% of users find access from remote location as a key advantage of e-journals. Ease of Searching is a significant factor is use of e-journals as recorded by 78% users. Provision of Full Text facility ranked important by 75% of users. Ddownloading facility provided with e-journals is a key advantage as expressed by the respondents.

Table 10: Problems Experienced by Respondents

Problems Experience by Respondents	No. of Responses	Percent (%)
Lack of Infrastructure	1	1%
Power failure	2	2%
Not user friendly	1	1%
Difficult to read from screen	25	30%
Lack of training	2	2%
Poor internet connectivity	1	1%
Consumes too much time	1	1%
Long hours to sit & work on PC	14	17%
Limited time to access	13	15
Required password not known	1	1%
Access has been restricted to campus only	20	24%
The Institute library does not have a subscription to the required titles	4	5%

Fig: Problems Experienced by Respondents

Table 10 shows that 30% of the research scholars and research staffwere finding it difficult for accessing e-journals because of inconvenience to read from screen. 24% of them found that the access restricted to campus only is another big issue. Interestingly, only 1% of the respondentsfound inadequacies in the infrastructure provided. Users in general are satisfied with internet speed.

Table 11: Satisfaction Level of Access to E-Journals

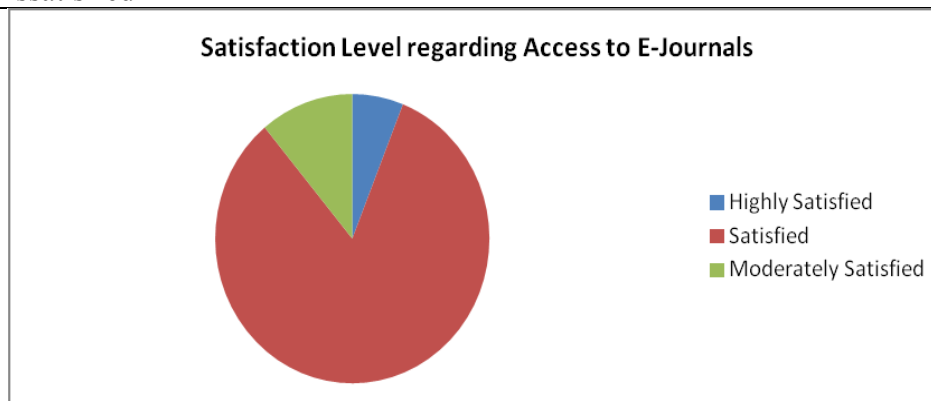| Satisfaction Level of Access to E-Journals	No. of Responses	Percent (%)
	5	6%
Satisfied	71	83%
Moderately Satisfied	9	11%
Dissatisfied	-	
Highly Dissatisfied	-	

Table 11 reveals that most of therespondents (83%) were satisfied on the access of e-journals.

Findings

The study led to the following findings:

The findings regarding the purpose of using e-journals among respondents revealed that 41% users use e-journals mainly for research work.

There is less number of users who access e-journals thrice in a week.

Major portion of respondents (72%) access e-journals almost daily.

A significant proportion of the users access e-journals in the computer lab.

The most popular way to search e-journals by respondents is through websites.

32% respondents searched article by keywords.

The most popular method of dealing article in foreign language is restricted to abstract only which is available in English.

68% respondents preferred PDF format for reading a article.

Easy accessibility, available from desktop, all time availability and ease and speed of publication of e-journals are the key advantages.

30% respondents found that the most common problem faced while accessing e-journals is difficultyof reading itfrom screen.

Hard copy or print form is still the preferred form of reading for long hours.

83% respondents were satisfied with the facilities provided by the PDPM-IIITDM library in accessing e-journals.

Computer is not considered to be a comfortable tool for sitting for long hours.

Suggestions

User orientation programme may be conducted to spread more awareness regarding all available e-journals.

Remote access like "remote login"of e-journals facility needs to be developed.

Flexibility and extending hours in the library for enabling users to access e-journals according to their availability of time would also help a great deal.

Conclusion

Research staff and research scholars of PDPM-IIITDM library access e-journals regularly, which boost their career, intellectual calibre and research aptitude. The Institute authorities also provided more computer labs and high speed internet connectivity to every department in the institute so that users get access to e-journalswithout any inconvenience. The study carried out at IIITDM library reveals that e-journals have become the vital part of information disseminationprocess.This study will help the information professionals in developing e-journal services in their libraries and information centres.

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