

**DOCTORAL RESEARCH SCHOLARS PERCEPTIVE ABOUT
THE E-JOURNALS ACCESSIBLE IN MANONMANIAM
SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AT TIRUNELVELI**

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ABSTRACT

E-publishing has revolutionized journal publication, subscription, access, and delivery mechanism. The researcher takes the initiative to analyze the doctoral research scholars' perceptive on the E-Journals accessible in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library at Tirunelveli. The researcher constructed a strong questionnaire and distributed the same to 150 selected doctoral research scholars. A simple random sampling technique is used to select the respondents. The researcher received 139 fully completed questionnaires from the respondents. The study revealed that the maximum number of respondents searched-journals by author wise and used the same for their research.

Keywords: *Research Scholars, E-Journals, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library.*

Introduction

Journals are an energetic source of information for research and development of the academic community. The number of periodicals at present-day is estimated to be 2,50,000. Journal names are increasing threefold every 15 years, and prices of journals are growing 2.5 times every ten years so that no single library can procure all journals in a discipline. With the advent of information technology applications, particularly the Internet, there has been a swing from traditional print journals to E-Journals. Electronic journals present remarkable possibilities and advantages over print journals; ease of use, “anywhere-anytime”, accessibility, sharing ability, and hyperlinks to connected text or multimedia content. E-Journals also offer a solution to other major logistic problems faced by libraries, such as follow-up of missing issues, binding, shelving, etc. Online access to E-journals is available either free against a print subscription or for a nominal fee along with a print subscription. Such access is provided either by the publisher or through their aggregators.

Journals play a vital role in research and development activities. Most universities and special libraries spend most of their budget on acquiring journals. Due to the advent of information technology, paradigm shifts from print journals to e-journals have occurred in the past decade. Access to e-journals has enormous benefits to the subscribers; therefore, the university and research institutions are

subscribing to e-journals directly from the publishers or forming part of the e-journals consortium.

Profile of Sample Unit

Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library was upgraded to a more digitalized version to synchronize with current trends in e-content. More than 4100 research theses are available for reference, and more than 1.5 lakhs of e-books help academicians, research scholars, and students. As technology has improved, there is a provision in the library to read journals in various disciplines published by colleges/ universities across the university. The library has secured 11th place among all Indian Universities in uploading 5142 awarded Ph.D. theses from our end under the “Shodhganga” project hosted by INFLIBNET. This

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university has 1324 publications indexed in the Web of Science database and 5148 faculty publications in the Scopus database. The students can access the institutional repository from their place of stay with the help of a remote access method using their assigned password. The entire library is connected to a Wi-Fi facility. There are three specially designed computer systems with special facilities that help visually impaired students to avail the content without any difficulty.

Review of Literature

Natarajan (2017) studied the usage of e-journals among 182 students at Jimma University, Ethiopia. The study resulted that the usage of e-journals is increasing due to awareness among information science students about e-resources and services. He has depicted that slow downloading is the major obstacle while using resources

Sohail and Ahmad (2017) compared e-resources and services utilized by faculty members and students of Fiji National University, Fiji Island. The study reveals that most users keep abreast of developments in electronic resources and services and their proper utilization in academics and research. The study has identified the users' problems in using e-resources and services, including inadequate IT infrastructure and blockade of websites.

Statement of Problem

Electronic journals represent a significant and growing part of an academic library’s offerings. Manonmaniam Sundaranar University invests a Sizeable amount in accessing e-journals attitude towards e-journals. The present study offers a way to identify the doctoral research scholars' perceptive on the E-Journals accessible in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library at Tirunelveli.

Objectives of the study

- ❖ To analyze doctoral research scholars' method of locating E-Journals on the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library website.
- ❖ To evaluate the respondents' perceptive about the E-Journals accessible in the study unit.

Scope and Limitations

These journals have played a key role in creating and transmitting knowledge. E-publishing has revolutionized

journal publication, subscription, and access and delivery mechanism.

The ability to access journals online has led to a new and still evolving, and academic libraries support the users to access these resources. The scope of the study is confined only to the full-time doctoral research scholars of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

Methodology

Doctoral research scholars of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University at Tirunelveli are the population frame of the present research. The researcher constructed a strong questionnaire based on previous studies and consulted field experts. A sample of one hundred and fifty doctoral research scholars was randomly selected and distributed the questionnaires to them. The researcher received 139 fully completed questionnaires from the respondents.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1
Method of Locating E-Journals

Sl.No	Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
	Method of Locating E-Journals		
1	Citations in publications	11	7.91
2	Referred article	32	23.02
3	Search by author	52	37.41
4	Search by keyword	31	22.3
5	Search by title	13	9.35
Total		139	100

(Source : Primary Data)

Table 1 discloses the selected respondents’ opinion method of locating the e-journals on the library website. It is observed that a maximum of 52 respondents (37.41 percent) searched by author, followed by 32 respondents (23.02 percent), Referred articles and 31 respondents (23.02 percent) searched the journals by using keywords.

Table 2
Purpose of using E-Journals

Sl.No	Particulars Method of Locating E-	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Research work	73	52.52
2	Syllabus based access	14	10.07
3	Project	19	13.67
4	Updating Knowledge	33	23.74
Total		139	100

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 2 describes the purpose of using the–journals by the selected respondents. It is understood that a maximum of 73 respondents (52.52 percent) referred to–journals for research work, followed by 33 respondents (23.74 percent) for updating their knowledge and 19 respondents (13.67 percent) for preparing their project.

Table 3
Respondents' Perceptive abo\ut e-journals

Variables	Mean	Standard Deviation	t' value	Rank
Improve my performance	2.8408	1.09375	81.309	IV
Competent & Effective	2.8163	1.04785	85.139	I
Comfortable	2.8592	1.08031	82.852	III
Easier to find information	2.851	1.13098	78.915	VII
Easy to use	2.8224	1.06534	82.938	II
Capable & Proficient	2.7918	1.09299	79.963	VI
Enhance effectiveness	2.7898	1.08037	80.837	V
Like using websites	2.7959	1.1377	76.932	VIII
Use e-journals alone in future	2.6306	1.04734	74.607	IX

Table 3 divulges the ranking of the variables related to the respondents' perceptive on the–journals available in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar university library at Tirunelveli. It is observed that the first rank allotted to the variable “Competent & Effective” with the “t” value of

85.139, followed by the second rank assigned to the variable “Easy to use” and the third rank allotted to the variable “Comfortable” with the “t” value of 82.852.

Table 4
Association between the respondents' perception of the E-Journals accessible in the study unit and their satisfaction

Variables	'F' value	Significance value
Improve my performance	11.247	0
Competent & Effective	13.694	0
Comfortable	14.085	0
Easier to find information	19.523	0
Easy to use	16.274	0
Capable & Proficient	21.368	0
Enhance effectiveness	15.479	0
Like using websites	10.638	0
Use e-journals alone in future	12.896	0

Table 4 indicates the “F” test between the respondents' perception of the E-Journals accessible in the study unit and their satisfaction. For all the variables, the “F” value is more than threshold level one, and the corresponding significance value is less than 0.05 at a 95 percent confidence level. Hence it is concluded that there are respondents' perceptive on the E-Journals accessible in the study unit and their satisfaction.

Findings

- ❖ It is observed that a maximum of 52 respondents (37.41 percent) searched by author, followed by 32 respondents (23.02 percent), Referred articles and 31 respondents (23.02 percent) searched the e-journals by using keywords.
- ❖ It is understood that a maximum of 73 respondents (52.52 percent) referred to–journals for research work, followed by 33 respondents (23.74 percent) for

updating their knowledge and 19 respondents (13.67 percent) for preparing their project.

- ❖ It is observed that the first rank allotted to the variable “Competent & Effective” with the “t” value of 85.139, followed by the second rank assigned to the variable “Easy to use” and the third rank allotted to the variable “Comfortable” with the “t” value of 82.852.
- ❖ It is concluded that there is a significant association between respondents' perception of E-Journals accessible in the study unit and their satisfaction.

Conclusion

Information in digital form has functional properties that can save users time and provide value. It is increasingly important for librarians and institutions to understand users' information ‘content’ so that additional capabilities can be developed to deliver new efficiency levels. Acquiring electronic resources in line with traditional policies and creating separate policies dealing only with electronic journals are needs of the day.

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