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"A SURVEY OF USER AWARENESS AND USE OF E-JOURNALS BY POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS OF C. U. SHAH UNIVERSITY, SURENDRANAGAR - (GUJARAT)"

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ABSTRACT :
        This paper investigates awareness and use of e-journals by P. G. Students of C. U. Shah University, Surendranagar. The paper also discusses the need to increase awareness of E-journals subscribed by university libraries. Results study revealed that the majority of the respondents were aware of e-journals. It was discovered that the main purpose of using e-journals by the users is for teaching. Majority of the respondents indicated that they use e-journals at university library and departmental libraries. The overall opinion of the library respondents majority users are very satisfied with e-journals provided by university libraries.

KEYWORDS : Online journals, Electronic journals, E-Resources, Digital journal, Open access journals, E-journals.

INTRODUCTION

        The 21st century is witnessing revolutionary impact on the publishing and information delivery systems due to the emergence of Internet, particularly the WWW as a new medium of information storage and delivery. A significant change in the global information process has been noticed in the publication of journals and other important information resources in electronic form. The electronic delivery of journals has resulted in elimination of paper, minimization of storage and transportation costs and the ease in handling complex data, tables, motion pictures, sound images and video clips. Further, unlike sequential design of printed papers, web technology makes it possible for the publishers to design things never possible in print such as interactive hyperlinks to related sources, links to full range of multimedia.

        Electronic publishing is a publication process where the manuscripts are submitted in electronic format, edited, printed, and even distributed to readers by employing computers and telecommunication networks. Electronic publishing is about dissemination of information in electronic media in all its various stages. One of the major products of e-publishing is: electronic journals (e-journals). The term electronic journal or "e-journal" referred to journals and newsletters that are prepared and distributed electronically and they may or may not have a print counterpart.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:-

        Anaraki and Babalhavaeji (2013) found that the most obstacles to the use of library electronic resources were inadequate information about existence of these databases and lack of training. Baljinder (2009) the impact of e-resources was visible from the decrease in number of printed journals in comparison to the increase in number

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of electronic journals. The printed material is being quickly replaced by the electronic resources. Bhatt (2004) reported that consortia - based subscription to electronic resources can help college and university libraries in order to enhance their access capacity to a large number of periodicals, yet there is a need to develop a policy for consortia-based subscription to electronic resources which should clearly indicate the terms and conditions favoring and protecting the academic interest of the college and university libraries. Ajegbomogun (2007) posits that, while electronic journals have become essential tools for learning, research, teaching and consultancy, most of scholars and researchers are not fully utilizing them. The study of Borrego (2007) disclosed that a high proportion of teaching and research staff are aware of the collection of electronic journals and that there is an increasing preference for the electronic to the detriment of the printed format. Many studies have been carried out on awareness and use of electronic journals. In the 1990s when electronic journals were introduced, Majid and Mansoor (1996) in their study of Universities in Malaysia found that a majority of users were not aware of the CD-ROMs services which reflected the degree of effectiveness of the promotion activities in the library.

E - Journals:-

E-Journal is 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. Some Web-based electronic journals are graphically modeled on the print version. The rising cost of print journal subscriptions has led many academic libraries to explore electronic alternatives.

Electronic Journals are very important source for the scientific research and development. E-journal is becoming vital to carry any meaning full research. This resource is widely used by Student & Research Scholars and Faculty members of the libraries to carry out day-to-day qualitative research, education and knowledge.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:
1. To find out the user awareness about the e-journals.
2. To study the purpose and utilization of e-journals.
3. To find out the frequency of using e-journals.
4. To study the level of satisfaction of the users about availability of e-journals.
5. To identify the problems faced by the P.G. students while accessing and using e-journals.

Scope and Limitation:-

The scope of the study area is limited to only Engineering P. G. Students of C. U. Shah University, Surendranagar, Gujarat State.

Research Methodology:-

The survey used the questionnaire tool to know the use and awareness of e- journal among the P. G. Students of C. U. Shah University Library. Questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to the awareness and use of e-journals. At present there are so many P. G. Students in different department of C. U. Shah University. Nearly 110 questionnaires were distributed among the Engineering P. G. Students of C. U. Shah University. Out of 110 questionnaires distributed 90 valid questionnaires were collected and then data was analyzed tabulated interpreted and presented in form of this paper.

Data Analysis:-

Analysis of data is the ultimate step in research process. It is the link between raw data and significant results leading to conclusions. This process of analysis has to be result oriented.

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Table-1 Gender wise distribution of Respondents

Sr. No.	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	73	81.11%
2	Female	17	18.89%
	Total	90	100%

Personal detail section of the questionnaire provides information regarding the gender can be seen from Table-1 Majority 73 (81.11%) of Students were males and 17 (18.89%) of total were females.

Table-2 Awareness about E-Journals

Sr. No.	Gender	Male	Female	Total
1	Aware	52 (71.23%)	12 (70.59%)	64 (71.11%)
2	Not aware	21 (28.77%)	05 (29.41%)	26 (28.89%)
	Total	73 (100%)	17 (100%)	90 (100%)

Table-2 reveals that total 73 male and 17 female respondents. 52 (71.23%) of the male users were aware about the e-journals and 21 (28.77%) of the male users were not aware about the e-journals. Whereas 12 (70.59%) of female respondents were aware about the availability of e-journals and 05 (29.41%) of the female respondents were not aware about the e-journals. It can be seen that male respondents are more aware about e-journals than females.

Table-3 Use of E-Journals

Sr. No.	Gender	Male	Female	Total
1	Use	48 (65.75%)	12 (70.59%)	60 (66.67%)
2	Not use	25 (34.25%)	05 (29.41%)	30 (33.33%)
	Total	73 (100%)	17 (100%)	90 (100%)

Table-3 shows the use of e-journals among the respondents available through the library. 48 (65.75%) of the male users were use the e-journals and 25 (34.25%) of the male users were not use whereas 12 (70.59%) of female respondents were use the availability of e-journals and 05 (29.41%) of female respondents were not use the availability of e-journals. It can be seen that female respondents are more use about e-journals than male.

Table-4 Respondents Frequency of using E-Journals

Sr. No.	Frequency	Male	Female	Total
1	Daily	2 (4.17%)	1 (8.33%)	3 (5.00%)
2	Weekly	8 (16.67%)	1 (8.33%)	9 (15.00%)
3	Fortnightly	9 (18.75%)	2 (16.67%)	11 (18.33%)
4	Monthly	11 (22.91%)	5 (41.67%)	16 (26.67%)
5	Irregularly	18 (37.50%)	3 (25.00%)	21 (35.00%)
	Total	48 (100%)	12 (100%)	60 (100%)

Table-4 indicates the gender wise respondent's frequency of using e-journals. It could be noted that majority 18 (37.50%) of the male respondents using e-journals irregularly, 11 (22.91%) male respondents using e-journals monthly, 9 (18.75%) male respondents using e-journals fortnightly. 8 (16.67%) male respondents using e-journals weekly and only 2 (4.17%) male respondents using e-journals daily. Majority 5 (41.67%) female respondents using e-journals monthly. 3 (25.00%) female respondents is using e-journals irregularly. 2 (16.67%) female respondents is using e-journals fortnightly. Only 1 (8.33%) female respondents is using e-journals daily and 1 (8.33%) female respondents is using e-journals weekly.

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Table-5 Purpose of using E-Journals

Sr. No.	Purpose	Male	Female	Total
1	For teaching	19 (39.58%)	6 (50.00%)	**25 (41.67%)**
2	For update subject knowledge	7 (14.59%)	4 (33.33%)	**11 (18.33%)**
3	For writing research papers	12 (25.00%)	2 (16.67%)	**14 (23.33%)**
4	Any other works	10 (20.83%)	0 (0.00%)	**10 (16.67%)**
	Total	**48 (100%)**	**12 (100%)**	**60 (100%)**

Male respondents were asked to indicate that the main purpose of using e-journals. From the above Table-5 shows that the maximum number 19 (39.58%) of male respondents were using e- journals for teaching. The minimum number 07 (14.59%) of male respondents were using e-journals for updating subject knowledge. It was followed by 12 (25.00%) of male respondents were using e- journals for writing research papers and 10 (20.83%) of male respondents were using e- journals for any other works. Female respondents were asked to indicate that the main purpose of using e-journals. From the above table shows that the maximum number 6 (50.00%) of female respondents were using e- journals for teaching. It was followed by 4 (33.33%) of female respondents were using e- journals for for updating subject knowledge and only 02 (16.67%) of female respondents were using e- journals for writing research papers. No respondents were using e-journals for any other works.

Table-6 Problems in Accessing E-Journals

Sr. No.	Problem	Male	Female	Total
1	Lack of Infrastructure facilities	5 (16.13%)	1 (12.50%)	**6 (15.38%)**
2	Lack of Training	9 (29.03%)	3 (37.50%)	**12 (30.77%)**
3	Slow access speed	3 (9.68%)	1 (12.50%)	**4 (10.26%)**
4	Lack of back volumes	7 (22.58%)	2 (25.00%)	**9 (23.08%)**
5	Lack of cooperation from Library staff	6 (19.35%)	1 (12.50%)	**7 (17.95%)**
6	Other	1 (3.23%)	0 (0.00%)	**1 (2.56%)**
	Total	**31 (100%)**	**08 (100%)**	**39 (100%)**

According to the above table shows that male respondents of university that 9 (29.03%) lack of training, 7 (22.58%) users opined that they face difficulty lack of back volumes, 6 (19.35%) said that they face difficulty lack of cooperation from library staff, 5 (16.13%) male user face problem Lack of Infrastructure facilities. 3 (9.68%) user face problem slow access speed and 1 (3.23%) face difficulty other problem while searching and using e-journals. Majority of the male respondent face two types of problem lack of training and lack of back volumes while searching and using the e-journals.

According to the above table shows that female respondents of university that 3 (37.50%) lack of training, 2 (25.00%) female user opined that they face difficulty lack of back of volume, 1 (12.50%) said that they face difficulty lack of cooperation from library staff, 1 (12.50%) female user slow access speed problems while searching the e-journals and 1 (12.50%) female user face problem Lack of Infrastructure facilities. Majority of the female respondent face two types of problem lack of back volumes and lack of training while searching and using the e-journals.

Table-7 Satisfaction of E-journals provided by University Library

Sr. No.	Satisfaction Level	Male	Female	Total
1	Very satisfied	22 (45.83%)	4 (33.33%)	**26 (43.33%)**
2	Satisfied	11 (22.92%)	3 (25.00%)	**14 (23.33%)**
3	Unsure	1 (02.08%)	2 (16.67%)	**3 (5.00%)**
4	Dissatisfied	8 (16.67%)	1 (08.33%)	**9 (15.00%)**
5	Very dissatisfied	6 (12.50%)	2 (16.67%)	**8 (13.34%)**
	Total	**48 (100%)**	**12 (100%)**	**60 (100%)**

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Above result shows that 22 (45.83%) male users feel that they were very satisfied while 11 (22.92%) male users are satisfied, 8 (16.67%) of the user are dissatisfied, 6 (12.50%) male users are very dissatisfied and only 1 (2.08%) male users feel that they were unsure of e-journals provided by university library. Above result shows that 4 (33.33%) female users feel that they were very satisfied while 3 (25.00%) female users are satisfied, 2 (16.67%) of the user are very dissatisfied, 2 (16.67%) female users are unsure and only 1 (8.33%) female users feel that they were dissatisfied of e-journals provided by university library. The overall opinion of the library respondents is that majority users are Very satisfied with e-journals provided by university.

Table-8 Required training programme for accessing of E-journals

Sr. No.	Details	Male	Female	Total
1	Yes	36 (75.00%)	9 (75.00%)	**45 (75.00%)**
2	No	12 (25.00%)	3 (25.00%)	**15 (25.00%)**
	Total	**48 (100%)**	**12 (100%)**	**60 (100%)**

The Above result shows that 36 (75.00%) Majority of the male respondents are required training programme for accessing of e-journals while 12 (25.00%) male user opined that they no need training programme for access of e-journals. 9 (75.00%) Majority of the female respondents are required training programme for accessing of e-journals while 3 (25.00%) female user opined that they no need training programme for access of e-journals. The overall opinion of the library respondents is that majority users are required training programme for accessing of e-journals.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:
(1) Majority 71.11% of users are aware about e-journals.
(2) Majority 66.67% of users are use of e-journals.
(3) Frequency of usage of e-journals is increasing day by day.
(4) 35.00% of users use e-journals irregularly.
(5) 41.67% of users use e-journals for teaching.
(6) Respondents have faced the major problem of lack of training and lack of back volumes.
(7) 43.33% of respondents are very satisfied with the e-journals provided by university library.
(8) Majority 75.00% of respondents are required training programme for accessing of e-journals.

SUGGESTIONS:
Based on the findings of the study the following suggestions are made. It is suggested that although the P.G. students use the E-journals for teaching mostly but they are lacking research So they should be encourage for the use of electronic information resources and how it could be make fruitful in different purposes. The authority must conduct the training programme for users regarding how to use e-journals. Awareness should be created to use e-journals. There is need to include more number of e-journals in various discipline. Information professionals have to help users to create awareness and use of e-journals.

CONCLUSION:
An electronic resource has become popular among the information users at higher education level. Publishers have come out with electronic version of books and journals in large number day by day users are becoming familiar in accessing e-books and e-journals on the web. They have also started placing demand on the library for subscription to e-journals. Of late, many libraries have purchased e-books and subscribed to e-journals under consortia approach. This trend of resource sharing will increase in future. Even e-resources are provided at large under open access platform. Hence it can be concluded that library users in the higher education institutions are aware of the availability of the e-journals and also familiar in accessing them for their academic and research endeavor.

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