
Use of E-Journal: A Study of the Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University Library Patan (Gujarat)

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Abstract

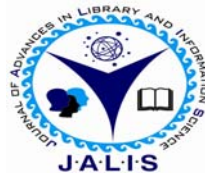
The purpose of this study is to investigate usage of scholarly e-journals at Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University Library Patan (HNGUL). It reports the results from a questionnaire-based survey of e-journals usages at Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University Patan (HNGUL) serving a variety of library users. The study covers two structured questionnaires comprising of both open- and close-ended questions, and the number of respondents 60, 30 students and faculty members. The study identifies some major problems of e-journals usage in HNGUL, and finds out some suitable measures to overcome the problems. The results show a growing interest in e-journals usage among the users at HNGU.

Keywords

Literacy, information and communication technology, University Libraries.

Electronic access

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Introduction

In Today's world internet, which is rightly a milestone in the history of information, is the best way to share and preserve information easily. The information which is available on internet can be easily accessible through e- resources and these e resources are very important for the advancement of the academic world.

In earlier times libraries were considered to be the best place to preserve the books and access information. People had to visit the library and they have to search out the appropriate books from the number of books. This takes lots of time and human labor as well. But today the scenario has been changing. Using technology libraries have reached at every door steps. Just one click can open the whole world of information. With growing popularity of e resources libraries are leaving behind their traditional traits and absorbing modern computer and internet technology. It is very important in this technological world for the library to be updated and for this library should be redesigned.

E-Journal

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 & Faculty and other users of the libraries to carry out day-to-day qualitative research, education and knowledge.

Objectives of the Study

This study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To familiar with the concept of e-journal
- To explore to what extent HNGU subscribe to e-journals.
- To find out of the purpose of using the e-journal services
- To study the preferred format for using e-journals.
- To find out the frequency of using e-journals.
- To review outstanding e- journal HNGU library.

Review of Related Studies

There are several significant efforts as evidenced by many authors have detailed information which has been have studied the e-journal employed by the

academic community of Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University Patan Library. Usage of e-journal by the students and faculty members undertaking the Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University Patan Library (Gujarat) [1]. Dr.S Thamsukodi (2011) have found that Use Awareness and Use of E Journal among education faculty in Chennai.[2] Vasppa Gowda and D hiavalingaiah(2009) Have found that use of electronic information resource of university libraries in Karnataka [3].Surendra Babu, Sarada and Ramaiah (2009) have found that internet has a great impact on academic community at Sri Venkateswara University (SVU), Tirupati [4]. Md. Shiful Islam & Dr. Md. Saiful Alam and Sajia Sultana. (2011). Have found that access and use of electronic journal of DLU. [5]. Arun Kumar (2009) has studied that all member were aware of the e resources in Business Schools in India, FIIB [6] Baljinder Kaur and Rama Verma (2009) has found that that a large number of users have started using electronic journals at Thapar University [7].Maharana, B., Sethi, B. B. & Behera, S. (2010). Use of internet and e-resources by the students of business anagement: A survey of P. G. students of business administration, Sambalpur University[8]. Khaizer Nikam and Pramodini B (2007) found that the librarian have important role to play in assisting the library users to make the best use of the electronics journals to maximum extent [9]. C.N. Okorie and I.O. Agboola (2012) have mentioned availability and use of electronic resources in agricultural university libraries [9]. Bipin Bihari Sethi and Prof. K. C. Panda (2011) have studied on use of E-Resources by life scientists: a case study of Sambalpur University and they found that the unearthed the fact that 92.18 % of the respondents preferred to use e resources compared to print

documents. The users to access e-resources are considered as one of the major constraints in effective use of e-resources [10]

Research Methodology

The survey used the questionnaire tool to know the access and awareness of e- journal among the students & faculties of HNGU Library. At present there are 70 students and 40 faculty members in different department of HNGU. Nearly 110 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty and students of HNGU Patan. But out of 110 Users, 90 (90%) were responded.

Finding

Usage of e-journals in HNGU Library

The library provides all the traditional services like Reference, Bibliographical, Literature search, User, Education, Inter Library Loan, Photocopy, Audio Visual, Cyber Cafe- Internet, OPAC, Newspaper clipping, CAS, etc. Since last fifteen years the library is also organization weekly discussion group called 'Characha vartula' for students. It meets every Wednesday hence called as Budhavariyum. Average 25-30 students are regularly attending it and discussion on various subjects.

Web Page.1 HNGU, Library

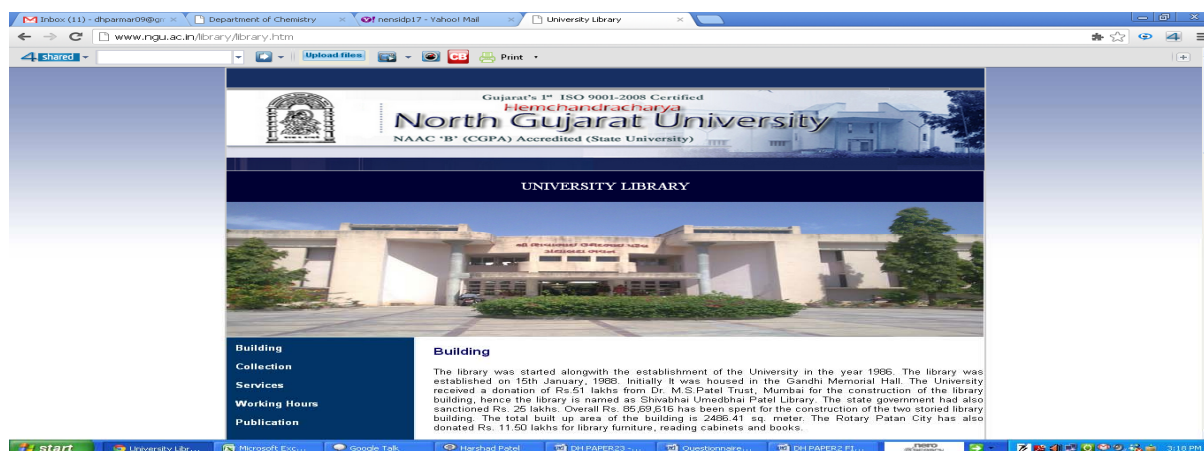


Figure: 1

Here if user clicks on the online journals link and he/she will get The Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University Patan Library online journals facilities and it will demonstrate the following page.

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Web Paeg.2 Library online link for e-journals database



Figure: 2

5	56-65	6	6.68
Total		90	100

ANALYSIS OF DATA:

TABLE 1: GENDER DETAILS

PERSONAL DETAILS OF RESPONDENTS			
Sr. No.	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	60	66.67
2	Female	30	33.33
Total		90	100

The analysis of Table 1 the respondent's personal details were according to the gender, age group use of library visit awareness of e-journal. The total Males are 60(66.67%) and females are 30(33.33%).

TABLE 2: AGE GROUP OF USERS

Sr No	Age Group	No. of Respondents	%
1	16-25	3	3.33
2	26-35	41	45.55
3	36-45	30	33.33
4	46-55	10	11.11

The analysis of Table 2 the majority of the respondents (45.55%) belonged to the age group of 26 to 35, (33.33%), 36 to 45 (8.53%) and 46 to 56(11.11%) years and 56-65(6.68%).

TABLE 3: PURPOSE OF USING E-RESOURCES

Sl. No.	Purpose	No. of Respondents	%
1	Research	20	22.22
2	Education	45	50.00
3	Current Information	15	16.67
4	Other	10	11.11
Total		90	100

Table 3 show that the Purpose of using e-resources for education followed by 45(50.00%), for research work 20(22.22%), for current information 10(16.67%) and 10(11.11%) for other.

TABLE 4: RANKED LIST OF PUBLISHERS BY USE AT HNGU PATAN

SL.	Name of HNGU subscribed publishers	Yes	%
1.	American Chemical Society	8	19.51
2.	American Institute of Physics	6	14.63
3.	American Physical Society	5	12.19
4.	Annual Review	3	7.31
5.	Blackwell Publication	2	4.87
6	Cambridge University Press	7	17.07
7	Emerald	4	9.75
8	Institute of Physics	6	14.63
9	ISID	3	6.12
10	JCCC	8	16.32
11	Oxford University Press	5	10.20
12	Project Muse	2	4.08
13	Royal Society of Chemistry	4	8.16
14	Springer Link	10	20.40
15	Taylor of Francis	2	4.08
16	IEEE	15	30.61
		90	

The faculty members and library user were asked about use of different publishers. The data regarding preference of the publishers of e-journals are summarized and ranked in table 4 based on the percentage of use at HNGU Library.

TABLE 5: PREFERRED FORMAT OF E-JOURNALS

Sr. No.	Preferred	No. of Respondents	%
1	PDF	65	72.22
2	HTML	10	11.11
3	SGML	3	3.33
4	MS WORD	12	13.33
	Total	90	100

Table 5 shows that PDF and HTML are the two most preferred formats with publishers. It is to be noted here that Acrobat reader for PDF and browser software for HTML formats are available free of cost, therefore they preferred these two format and they are not ready to pay money for other software

TABLE 6: STATUS OF FREQUENCY OF USE

Sl. No.	Frequency	No. of Respondents	%
1	Daily	60	66.67
2	Once a week	20	22.22
3	2-3 times a week	10	11.11

4	Not specified	0	00
	Total	90	100

The analysis of Table 6 the majority of respondents 60(66.67%) visit at library daily and 20(22.22%) Once a weekly, 10(11.11%) 2-3 times a week, 0(0%) as Not specific visit the Library.

TABLE 7: IMPORTANCE OF E-JOURNALS AND USE

Importance of E-J		Use of E-Journals	
Yes	75(83.33%)	Yes	60(80%)
No	15(16.68%)	No	15(20%)

Table 7 reveals that the 83.33% of respondents replied positively regarding the importance of e-journals. The result also demonstrates that the strong and predominant role of e-journals in scientific communication. It also shows that 80 % of those who use electronic journals which strongly underlines the conclusion that “electronic journals are one of the most important parts of scientific communication.”

TABLE 8: REASONS FOR NON-USE OF E-JOURNALS

Sl. No.	Reasons for non-use of e-journals	No. of Respondents	%
1	Insufficient number of PC's available to the student	20	22.22
2	Limited number of title in e- journal	40	44.44
3	Don't know where to find links to e-journals	15	16.68
4	Feeling more comfortable with print journals	10	11.11
5	Lack of awareness about the services	05	5.55
		90	100

It is evident that from the table 8 that the HNGU Library e-journals are not being popularly used due to insufficient numbers of PCs for the students; many of them don't know how to find the links to e-journals; and lack of awareness about the services among the users

TABLE 9: METHODS FOLLOWED FOR LOCATING E-JOURNALS

Sr No	Methods followed for locating e-journals:	No. of Respondents	%
1	Looking up the link e-journals on the HNGU library website	34	37.37
2	Using the OPAC	23	25.55
3	Having added e-journal links to their bookmarks	12	13.33
4	Seeing bibliographical databases with links to e-journals	4	4.44
5	Seeing a web search engine	10	11.11
6	Using a subject guide to web resources	7	7.77
Total		90	100

Table 9 depicts that 33.3 percent of the faculty members follow HNGU website to get e-journals whereas most of the students are not aware of the website. It also shows that 73.3 percent of faculty members and 90 percent of students depend on having e-journals by using various search engines.

Suggestions

- ❖ To reduce the slow downloading problem while accessing e-Journal, the lab should acquire high-speed Internet and intranet connection.
- ❖ To provide e-journals facility efficiently and effectively number of nodes, terminals and printers must be increased in the HNGU Library.
- ❖ The faculty should start bulletin board services to inform the research scholars about new additions of e-Journals databases and consortium.
- ❖ The faculty and library should organize regular workshops to enhanced usage of e-Journals.
- ❖ Users studies should be conducted to know about electronic information needs of users as well as problems they are facing while searching information through e-Journals.

Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to investigate use of e-journal at HNGU Library Patan. The results reflect a growing interest in electronic journals among the faculty members and the students of HNGU University Patan. This study has shown that PDF format is the most preferred choice of e- journal, followed by HTML format, MS Word, ASCII and

SGML formats. Regarding the media preference (reading on the monitor or reading print out), this study suggests that there is an even balance between the two media preferences.

The study explored the following major problems regarding access and usage of e-journals at HNGU: lack of training and orientation program. In order to overcome the problems, this study also suggests that DUL should increase funds allocation, the bandwidth of internet connection, the number of computers, and subscription of e-journals. DUL should establish more consortia, arrange training programs for users; appoint more information professionals with ICT skills; and receive users' suggestions or opinions for subscribing new e-journals

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