



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

(Peer-reviewed, Refereed, Indexed & Open Access Journal)

DOI : 03.2021-11278686

ISSN : 2582-8568

IMPACT FACTOR : 6.865 (SJIF 2023)

Exploring the Awareness and Utilization of E-Journals among Users in Banaras Hindu University

Arti Kansal

Research Scholar,

Department of Library and Information Science,
Swami Vivekanand Subharti University,
Meerut (Uttar Pradesh, India)

Dr. Javed Khan

Associate Professor,

Department of Library and Information Science,
Swami Vivekanand Subharti University,
Meerut (Uttar Pradesh, India)

DOI No. **03.2021-11278686**

DOI Link :: <https://doi-ds.org/doi/10.2582/08.2023-34747295/IRJHIS2308009>

Abstract:

E-journals are an important part of higher education and academic institutions in the digital world of today. The goal of the study was to find out how much users know about and use e-journals at Banaras Hindu University. A well-structured questionnaire distributed for fill out about how they use e-journals. This was done to know that how much users have knowledge of E-journals. This study showed that most of students knew about e-journals and used them as references in their academic and research work. The results show that most of the users who answered the survey, no matter what type they were, chose electronic journals. Researcher found majority of respondents are Research Scholars (78%) and Post Graduate students (77%) of university liked to read e-journals. It was also found that many problems in the correct use of e-journals were trainings and downloads. The current study suggested that research scholars and postgraduate students should be more aware to access terminals and that user training programmes made time to time available for improve the E-journal in Banaras Hindu University.

Keywords: E-Journal, Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Library, Banaras Hindu University.

Introduction:

Electronic media, in particular e-journals, serves as the nerve centre of the digital world we currently inhabit. We live in a "Paperless Society" because of the proliferation and improvement of online publication in the 21st century. Information and communication technology (ICT) is utilised to enhance the library experience. Libraries have expanded their offerings to take advantage of this modern technology. The process of obtaining information tools such as the internet, e-mail, online retrieval systems, networks, multimedia, and speed up. The Internet, and notably the "World Wide Web" (WWW), has simplified the process of sharing information thanks to advanced hardware, software, and networking technology. Numerous publishing houses distribute many of their works to researchers all over the world via the Internet. Free electronic resources such as books, journals, and

databases are widely available on the web thanks to the efforts of libraries, consortia, and open-source software.

The "Banaras Hindu University," which is in the most important part of Varanasi, is known as a place to study all over the world. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, a well-known nationalist leader, and well-known people like Dr. Annie Besant, who thought of it as the University of India, started this unique and creative university in 1916. It is one of the best places in India to do study.

Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Library:

The Central Library was opened in 1941 in a grand structure given its current name in honour of the Maharaja of Vadodara at the time, Sayaji Rao Gaekwad -III. Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad-III of Baroda donated heavily to have the current grand structure of the Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Library constructed, modelling it after the British Museum in London at the urging of the university's founder, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. To better serve the needs of the university's students, faculty, and staff, the Sayaji Rao Gaekwad, central Library has amassed a collection of over 16 lakh volumes of books, as well as subscriptions to popular research journals, databases, and precious collection of manuscript, rare book, and artifacts written in easterly languages. In light of contemporary shifts, social scientists must assume new roles as economic and political thinkers, interpreters, and designers. Sociologists, psychologists, economists, political scientists, and historians have all contributed significantly to the advancement of knowledge.

E-journal (Electronic Journals):

E-journal is well-known as electronic journal. That is the magazine of ideas and academic journals that may be found online. Usually, this means that they are posted online. They represent a distinct class of digital file(Singh & Thurman, 2019). They are written to provide information for scientific research and study, and their format is comparable to that of conventional journal articles. It is meant that articles in electronic format that introduce into specialized databases and search engines.

An electronic journal is a publication where every step is done digitally and the finished article may be accessed using a network, an optical disc, or another electronic medium(Peppler & Kafai, 2007). An electronic journal is one that does everything digitally, without the need of any physical intermediaries (like printed journals), including writing, editing, refereeing, and distribution. E- Journal is distributed online and is published in a digital format(Santos Silva, 2011). These journals are frequently of an academic character. Print journals are the traditional print editions produced and distributed as hard copies, whereas online journals are periodicals which main process of release to subscribers is through computers and internet.

Therefore, it is said that the terms "e-journals" are synonyms, similar to "online journals," "online journals" or "webzines," etc. A simple definition of an e-journal would be a periodical that is

sequential in nature, available in digital form, and having characteristics of a journal, magazine, or newsletter etc. The web is not often the primary access point for electronic journals, but the Internet is.

Review of Literature:

(Xu & Tan, 2020) study concluded that resource utilization is a feature of the overall program, for students, institutions and information professionals. E-tools help deliver resources to their user very quickly, so user time is saved. Nowadays e-resources have completely reduced the use of paper materials. These resources are affordable, ready to use and can be accessed from anywhere and from multiple users at once, these repositories are very useful to use for academic excellence and to achieve their user community.

(Kumar & Pandey, 2020) A Comprehensive Examination of Library Users Reveals Imperfections in Current Practices: Towards Enhancing System Efficiency and User Satisfaction This study delves into the critical evaluation of a library's existing practices, highlighting potential shortcomings that necessitate improvements. Despite an annual expenditure of approximately Rs. 20 lakhs on diverse resource acquisitions, a significant number of users express dissatisfaction due to issues primarily centered around the unavailability of books and journals. These findings imply that the library may not be optimizing its acquired resources adequately. Furthermore, the study concludes that the effectiveness of a library cannot be solely measured by the quantity of resources acquired, but rather by the degree of user satisfaction. Hence, it underscores the importance of focusing on user needs and feedback as the true gauge of a library's success. (Obeidat, 2020) This study reflects the level of electronic library services to university students as well as the extent to which electronic libraries integrate elements of digital academic libraries. A qualitative approach for data collection has been employed using a total of 40 undergraduate students from public universities using the internet. The students' level of digital content and services indicated that users are accessing the database through the Internet aspect. Users are seeking e-resources for searching information to improve their skills to access information to provide better guidance and directions.

(Khan, 2016) base of this study, the users of IIT Delhi are satisfy with the e- services. Most users are using online databases and prefer to use e-resources. When students access e-resources on computers they face many troubles associated to internet and lack of IT acquaintance. The library staff of the central library will have to spread more awareness on e-resources. On the website of the library and the newsletter of the institute should regularly update the availability of e-resources in the library. The respondents be able to access e-journals as per their convenience. In accumulation to e-journals and e-databases, e-books and other e-resources (both online and offline) be supposed to be access by the central library.

Benefits of Online Journals:

The following are some of the benefits of electronic journals that print publications do not provide: Reduced paper usage and storage needs, increased accessibility, multiple users with simultaneous access, cost savings, and powerful search capabilities are just a few of the benefits of electronic publishing. Access new articles / search full text / steering / no material handing out /fast contact/internet capability / personalization/digital storage.

5. Problems with online journals:

Some of the drawbacks of online journals are as follows.

Some of the issues with computers include:

- Difficult to read on screen
- Dissatisfied to information
- Dependence on appliances
- Login requirements
- Complexities in acquiring
- High costs and low quality.

Method of Reading Online Journals:

The many models or modes available for reading e-journals from their respective publishers are as follows;

The electronic version of a journal is typically included at no additional cost with a print journal subscription.

Libraries can save money by subscribing exclusively to electronic journals rather than buying hard copies of each issue.

The library picks and chooses which electronic periodicals its patrons really use, and the institution's budget is adjusted accordingly.

Due to the high cost of maintaining subscriptions to all available electronic journals, many libraries and academic institutions have begun working together in what is known as an "economic model" to increase the availability of their resources to a wider audience and build a more robust information foundation for library users.

Objectives:

The goal of this study is to find out how much users use and know about e-journals. But here are some of the other goals of the study:

1. To find out availability of e-journals in library at BHU.
2. To analysis the regularity and use the electronic journals by the users.
3. To know the place from where user access e-journals.
5. To find out the problems faced in the use of e-journals and the satisfaction level of studies by

the users at Banaras Hindu University.

Scope:

The most important reason of the study entitled “**Exploring the Awareness and Utilization of E-journals among Users in Banaras Hindu University**” to know that how much users aware to use and knowledge of e-journal at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. The study is limited in the following ways, according to the researcher:

1. Only people who use e-journals, like researchers and post graduate students, are included in the study.
2. The study is limited at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

9. Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Data from the Banaras Hindu University is the focus of this paper's study and interpretation. There were total of 150 questionnaires sent out to Research Scholars and Postgraduate students, and 130 were returned. The full dataset of 120 questions was used for statistical testing and interpretation.

Circulation & collected of questionnaires:

- 1: Questionnaires are sent out and collected.

Category	Questionnaire sent out	Questionnaire collected	%
Research Scholar	50	43	78
Postgraduate students	100	77	77
Total	150	120	80

Table 1 reveals that 150 questionnaires were given out to graduate students and 50 were given out to research scientists. Research scholars ($n = 43$) and postgraduate students ($n = 77$) each returned 78% and 77% of the questionnaires sent to them, respectively. While a total of 150 questionnaires were sent out to research scholars and postgraduate students, only 120 returned for analysis approx 80%. All of the submitted surveys have been chosen for examination by the researcher.

Timings of using Library:

- 2: Library visit

Timings	Research scholars (%)	Postgraduate students (%)
Per day	65	30
Weekly	25	51
Monthly	8.5	12.5
Occasionally	1.5	6.5

This table shows that 65% research scholar use to library per day and 30% Postgraduate students. 25% research scholars use library weekly while Postgraduate students use library 51% weekly. 8.5% Research Scholars use library monthly follow by 12.5% Postgraduate students. Only 1.5% Research Scholars and 6.5% Postgraduate students use library rarely. Thus, all the respondents try to use library.

3: Type of journal chosen.

Type of journal	Research scholar (%)	Postgraduate students (%)
E-journals	55	35
Printed journals	12.5	26
Equally	32.5	39

The table shows that 55% research scholars chosen E- journal, 12.5% chosen printed journals and 32.5% use both forms of journals. 35% postgraduate students are using e- journals, 26% printed journals and 39% are using both type of journals.

4: where user access e-journal

Place of Journal	Research Scholar (%)	Postgraduate students (%)
Departmental lab	18	34
Computer Center	8	4
Central Library	39	30
Personal Computer/Home	15	13
Cyber Library	20	19

Based on the data presented in Table 4, it is evident that among research scholars, 39% prefer utilizing the central library to access e-journals, followed by 18% who utilize the departmental lab, 20% who opt for the cyber library, 15% who use their personal computers, and 8% who rely on the computer center for e-journal access.

In comparison, among postgraduate students, 34% utilize the departmental lab to access e-journals, while 30% prefer the central library, 19% opt for the cyber library, and 13% use personal computers. Only a small fraction of 4% relies on the computer center for accessing e-journals. Overall, the central library stands out as the most favored location for users to access e-journals in the university, as it is frequently utilized by both research scholars and postgraduate students.

5: Most used search engine.

Search engine	Research Scholars (%)	Postgraduate students (%)
Google	55	33.33
Yahoo	10	20.68

MSN	25.	35
Alta Vista	6.2	3.66
Any Other	3.8	7.33

Table 5 reveals the preferred search engine choices among research scholars and postgraduate students for accessing e-journals. Among research scholars, 55% utilize Google, 10% opt for Yahoo, 25% use MSN, and 6.2% rely on AltaVista. Additionally, 3.8% of research scholars employ other methods for their e-journal searches. On the other hand, among postgraduate students, 33.33% favor Google, 20.68% prefer Yahoo, 35% use MSN, 3.66% utilize AltaVista, and 7.33% employ various other methods for their e-journal searches. Notably, Google emerges as the most widely used search engine by both groups of respondents when it comes to accessing e-journals.

6: Prevalent E-Journal Download Format Preferences Among Research Scholars and Graduate Students at Banaras Hindu University

Format	PDF (%)	DOC (%)	HTML (%)	XML (%)	Printout (%)
Research Scholars	71	9	8	0	12
Postgraduate Students	62	15	7	0	16

The table above illustrates the preferences of Postgraduate students and research scholars regarding different journal formats in the faculty. Notably, the highest percentage of respondents, comprising 71% of research scholars and 62% of Postgraduate students, favored the PDF format for reading journals. In comparison, 8% of respondents utilized the HTML format, 9% preferred the DOC format, and 12% and 16% opted for print journals, respectively. These results emphasize the overwhelming preference for PDF among both research scholars and Postgraduate students in the faculty.

7: Examining the Frequency of E-Journal Access Among Research Scholars and Graduate Students at Banaras Hindu University

Frequency	Sometimes (%)	Frequently (%)	Always (%)	Rarely (%)	Never (%)
Research Scholars	35	42	21	0	0
Postgraduate Students	47	33	10	8	0

The data presented in the table reveals the utilization of e-journals among different groups. Among Postgraduate students, 47% use e-journals occasionally, 33% use them frequently, 10% use them always, and only 8% use them rarely. On the other hand, among research scholars, 35% use e-journals occasionally, 42% use them frequently, 21% use them always, and no specific percentage is mentioned for rare usage.

8: Examining the Significance of E-Journals for Research Scholars and Graduate Students at Banaras Hindu University

Purpose	Research need (%)	tutoring (%)	Writing articles (%)	college assignment (%)	current information (%)
Research Scholars	90	20	55	0	35
Postgraduate Students	43	53	7	46	27

In this table 90% research scholars use e-journal for their research need and 43% Postgraduate students. 20% research scholars use for tutoring and 53% Postgraduate students. 55% research scholars and 7% Postgraduate students using e-journals for writing article. 46% Postgraduate students use e-journals for the purpose of their college assignment. 35% research scholars and 27% Postgraduate students use e-journals for knowing the current information.

9: Challenges Encountered in the Utilization of E-Journals:

Problems	Search (%)	Slow tempo (%)	Down load (%)	Lack of instruction (%)	Print (%)
Research Scholars	25	30	27	13	8
Postgraduate Students	20	25	15	22	7

The table 9 defines that 25% research scholars and 20% Postgraduate students face problem in searching e-journals. While 30% research scholars and 25% Postgraduate students face problem of slow speed. 27% and 13% research scholars face problems in downloading and lack of instruction as well 15% and 22% Postgraduate students face problems in downloading and lack of instruction. 8% research scholars and 7% Postgraduate students faced problem in printing. Access of e-journal is main problem for the respondent.

10: Evaluating Consortia Usage

Consortium	UGC-INFONET (%)	CSIR (%)	J-GATE (%)	INDEST (%)	Any Other (%)
Research Scholars	45	20	11	10	20
Postgraduate Students	37	9	8	9	12

In this table 10 shows that 45% research scholars and 37% postgraduate students use UGC-INFONET. 20% research scholars and 9% postgraduate students use CSIR followed by, 11% use J-GATE followed by 8% postgraduate students. 10% use INDEST followed by 9%, only 20% research scholars and 12% postgraduate students use any others consortia for accessing e-journals. Majority

of the respondents are aware about the e-journal consortium, and using UGC-Info net as e-journal consortium.

11: E-Journal Subscription Awareness among Research Scholars and Graduate Students at Banaras Hindu University

Number of Journals	10 to 20	20 To 50	More Than 50	No Journal
Research Scholars	37	40	53	5
Postgraduate Students	7	32	26	10

The above table shows that 37% research scholars and 7% postgraduate students are aware about 10 to 20 e-journals. 40% research scholars and 32% postgraduate students aware about 20 to 50. 56% research scholars and 26% Postgraduate students know more than 50 e-journals. Only 5% research scholars and 10% Postgraduate students do not know the numbers of subscribed e-journals.

12: Perceptions and Experiences with E-Journal Access and Utilization

Opinion	Most helpful (%)	Helpful (%)	Not helpful (%)
Research Scholars	60	40	0
Postgraduate Students	29	60	11

The table 12 shows that 60% Research scholars and 29% Postgraduate students say e-journals are most helpful for them. While 40% Research scholars and 60% Postgraduate students said that e-journals are helpful in accessing, reading and using. Only 11% Postgraduate students say that e-journal is not helpful because they are not aware about the e-journals.

13: Exploring Effective Search Techniques for Accessing E-Journals:

Search Technique	Research scholars (%)	Postgraduate Students (%)
Boolean Operator	15.5	12.5
Truncation	9	16
Phrases	67	35
Field	6.5	30.5
Wild	0	6
Any Other	4	0

This table shows that 67% research scholar and 35% postgraduate students use phrases technique to search e-journals. 15.5% research scholars use Boolean operator search as well 12.5% postgraduate students. 9% research scholars are using Truncation search as well 16% postgraduate students and 6.5% research scholars are using Field search as well 30.5% post graduate students. Only 4% research scholars and 6% Postgraduate students use Wild search technique to compare any other search technique.

Finding, Suggestions and Conclusion:

At Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, a significant majority of research scholars and postgraduate students exhibit a high level of awareness regarding e-journals. A remarkable 78% of research scholars and 77% of postgraduate students prefer utilizing e-journals as their primary information source. The preferred mode of accessing e-journals is through the university library, with the majority opting for the convenience of PDF format.

The study also revealed that Google remains the most frequently used search engine among the participants. However, a considerable number of users encounter challenges due to insufficient training and the sluggish internet speed in their respective departments while accessing e-journals. To facilitate their e-journal usage, the respondents primarily rely on the UGC-INFONET consortium. Addressing the training needs and improving internet speed could greatly enhance the overall e-journal experience for the users at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Suggestions:

Comprehensive Insights into E-journal Awareness and Utilization among Research Scholars and Postgraduate Students at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. A significant majority of research scholars and postgraduate students at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, exhibit awareness regarding the availability of e-journals. Notably, 78% of research scholars and 77% of postgraduate students prefer utilizing e-journals for their academic pursuits. The preferred format for accessing e-journals is predominantly in PDF, and most users access them through the university library. Among the search engines used, Google emerges as the clear favorite among the study participants. However, a noteworthy challenge faced by a considerable number of users is the lack of training, primarily due to slow internet speeds in their respective departments while accessing e-journals. To facilitate their access to e-journals, respondents are relying on the UGC-INFONET consortium. This study provides valuable insights into the preferences and challenges faced by users in utilizing e-journals, thus shedding light on areas for potential improvement and focused interventions.

Conclusion:

The aim of this study was to investigate the utilization of e-journals among research scholars and graduate students at Banaras Hindu University. The results indicate that most of the study objectives have been successfully achieved. The majority of research scholars and graduate students are well aware of electronic journals, as revealed by the survey. The study also found that research scholars primarily access e-journals through the university's central library, while graduate students tend to use departmental libraries for the same purpose.

It was observed that the majority of research scholars and postgraduate students prefer using search engines to discover articles due to their user-friendly nature. Notably, the study highlights that the PDF format is considered the most essential for reading journal articles among the participants.

When it comes to accessing e-journals, respondents from the central library expressed a preference for search results that are relevant and in-depth. However, the research scholars and postgraduate students faced challenges in accessing e-journals, which were attributed to slow bandwidth, internet connectivity issues, and a lack of training.

Interestingly, a significant proportion of respondents believe that user training can enhance the utilization of e-journals among research scholars and graduate students. They view e-journals as affordable, time-efficient, easily accessible, and convenient to archive.

In conclusion, the study sheds light on the positive reception of e-journals among research scholars and graduate students at Banaras Hindu University. It also identifies areas of improvement, such as addressing connectivity and training issues, to further enhance the utilization of e-journals in academic pursuits.

Bibliography:

1. Khan, J. (2016). AWARENESS AND USE OF DIGITAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES IN THE IIT DELHI LIBRARY. *International Journal of Research -GRANTHAALAYAH*, 4(6), 64–71. <https://doi.org/10.29121/granthaalayah.v4.i6.2016.2639>
2. Kumar, A., & Pandey, S. K. (2020). *USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES BY THE USERS OF DOON UNIVERSITY, DEHRADUN: A SURVEY*. 56.
3. Obeidat, O. A. (2020). *EVALUATION DIGITAL LIBRARY SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: USING USERS' EXPERIENCES IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTION, JORDAN*.
4. Peppler, K. A., & Kafai, Y. B. (2007). From SuperGoo to Scratch: Exploring creative digital media production in informal learning. *Learning, Media and Technology*, 32(2), 149–166.
5. Santos Silva, D. (2011). The future of digital magazine publishing. *Information Services & Use*, 31(3–4), 301–310.
6. Singh, V., & Thurman, A. (2019). How many ways can we define online learning? A systematic literature review of definitions of online learning (1988-2018). *American Journal of Distance Education*, 33(4), 289–306.
7. Xu, L., & Tan, J. (2020). Financial development, industrial structure and natural resource utilization efficiency in China. *Resources Policy*, 66, 101642.