

An Overview of e-journal Evolution

*Prayatkar K. Kanadiya, **Atul K. Akbari

*Lecturer,**Information Scientist

* & **Dept. of Lib & Info. Science, Gujarat Vidyapith ,Ahmeadb-14

Abstract

Electronic journals have now been recognized as major link in scholarly communication. The Timely publication, ease delivery, in corporation of multimedia contents, hyper linking and search facilities etc. are some of the features which have attracted interest of both library and scholarly communities. The article deals with importance, definition, evolutionary, trends and access of E-journals. It discusses along with advantages, the burning issues and challenges to the present and future library and information professional.

Keywords

E-Journals,Issues,Pricing,Archiving

Access, Library

Introduction

Electronic journal form a large part of the collection of a library. Collection management related to e-journals involves a number of issues, such as technology requirement, access regulations, access mechanisms-via publisher or aggregator-and cataloging to make the library patrons aware of the E-journals.

Access to electronic journals is provided by

either publisher themselves or aggregators. Most e-journals provide access to their journals from their websites usually if a library subscribes to the print version of a journal, access to its electronic version is available either at no cost or for a small additional fee; the price of the online - only version may be slightly lower than the cost of print version.

History of E-Journals

A significant trend during the 1990s was the creation of web-based electronic journals. The 1994 Directory of Electronic Journals, News Letter and academics discussion lists listed approximately 35 electronic publications 'Created for the web reading / distribution'-a number that had increased to about 140 in the 1995 directory. Counting publication available through gophers or list serves all most 350 journals was available in the web or through webs links in 1995. Reportedly the initial the refereed library and information science journals on the www was the Olive Tree, published by the school of library science at the University of the Arizona and the first issued in January 1995.

Growth of electronic publication listed in the directory of electronic journals, news letters and academic discussion lists:

Year	Journals / Letters	News	Discussion lists
1991	110		517
1992	113		769
1993	240		1152
1994	443		1785
1995	675		2480
1996	1689		3118

This figure may partially reflect the directory expended coverage rather than the absolute number of electronic journals and discussion groups, although the genuine growth in the

Reprint requests: Prayatkar K. Kanadiya

Lecturer, Dept. of Lib & Info. Science
Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmeadb-14, Gujarat
Mobile : 9374767538
Email : prayatkar_kandiya@yahoo.com

numbers is indisputable.

What is Electronic Journals?

"Any Journals that is available over the internet can be called an 'Electronic Journals' (E-Journals). In some cases, print equivalents exist; in some cases not. Some electronics journals are freely available other have charging mechanisms of different types. Some are issued by established

publishers; others are produced from an individual academic's office. As with print journals, the quality and relevance of journals can vary considerably. "

Electronics Journals may be defined very broadly as any journals, Magazine, e'zine, webzine, news letters or type of electronic serial publication, which is available over the internet. Within this broad definition the titles can be electronically access using different technology such as the World Wide Web (WWW), Gopher, FTP, and Telnet, E-Mail or listserv of course virtually all - modern electronic journals are mostly available via the way. In order to be included in journals collection electronics journals must be available via the World Wide Web and must fall within the guide line presented bellow: This guideline is not presented in order of importance and it is the responsibility of the subject specialist to apply them in an appropriate manner. Not all guidelines apply to all titles.

Selection Issues

Five fundament selection issues for electronic journals exist:

- 1) What does 'selection' of an electronic journals mean?
- 2) Who will do the selection?
- 3) What selection procedure is used?
- 4) How are titles that are candidates for selection identified?
- 5) What selection criteria will be used?

Selecting electronic journals to five actions:

- Placing a paid subscription
- Signing a license agreement
- Accessing a title on a pay-per-use basis
- Including a title in library's gopher
- Providing access through a WWW site

Procedure of Acquisition

An MIT subgroup on electronic journals, appointed in 1995, identify five specific acquisition functions for fee-based, later generation electronic journals:

- Determining the price
- Negotiation with the vendor

- Completing the license agreement
- Encumbering the fund
- Recording the order

In addition to these five steps, one might add three more

- Verifying the title can be accessed
- Communicating with the vendor if it can not be accessed (the Electronic equivalent of claiming)
- Preparing an invoice for payment

In January 1994 6 University Libraries (17 percent responding to the question) reported they acquired electronic journals through the same procedure as print ones, 20 (57 percent) used a modified form of the normal acquisition procedure, and 8 (23 Percent) used separate procedure developed specifically for electronic journals.

There are two approaches for acquiring E-journals:

1. Individual library approach: every library differs from one another according to its collection, information need of users, working methods, sources of finance processing of information etc.
2. Consortia approach: It is more particle than another approach toward the subscription of E-Journals. It is a marketing strategy of commercial publisher to get continuous longer commitment form a group of libraries for their journals.

Process of accessing

Different publisher have different policies when it comes to providing access to electronic journals some publishers are willing to provide libraries with both bibliography information and full text for local stores. This is done either by regularly sending CD-ROMs to the library or by the making the Material available via and FTP archive from which a library can download the files. Some publishers have their own sites at which end-users can access both bibliographic information and full-text. In this type of access publisher gives the user a user name and password. Another possible way to provide access to electronic journals is through the website of the intermediary.

Another way to provide end-users with access to electronic journals is by including links in the library catalogue. These links are added to the journal description. In most cases a link brings user to the list of issue of the journals that are electronically available on a site of a publisher or intermediary. Access is thus provided at the level of the journal. This solution is of course only possible when the OPAC of a library has a web interface.

- Interface is user-friendly
- Articles have hyper-text link to additional data-Mail address, Full Text of material cited, etc.
- Site provides indexing or other types of subject access to the journal's content.

Electronic journal archiving/Preservation

Who does the archiving?

1. Electronic journals publisher: many publishers do the archive the electronics journals they publish. The problem here is that many observers feel the publishers can not be depended upon for permanent archiving.
2. Library: Libraries could do the archiving themselves traditionally.
3. On co-operative regional or national bases: During the last decade there has been more talk than action about co-operative collection development on the part of libraries. As variation on this theme there may be significant potential for co-operative archiving of electronics journals.

Which Electronics Journals should be achieved?

Not every print journal has enough enduring contribution to scholarship to warrant preservation through binding. Likewise an electronic publication might not have enough scholarly merit to justify permanent archiving. Consequently part of the collection management responsibility in regards to electronics journals evolves deciding which journal should be archiving and which should not be.

What format should be use for archiving?

Archiving can be done in a variety of formats including paper disk, micro format, CD-ROM,

Optical Media or on a computer. The details of which archiving method is the best for a particular journal and a particular situation is beyond the scope of these articles.

Advantages of electronic journals ·

Speed

Articles can be put on the Web as soon as they are ready, without having to wait may be months for a space in a journal issue. The American Chemical Society put articles on their Web site "as soon as publishable" which can be up to 11 weeks before print. This all means that the information is much more up-to-date than can be achieved with paper.

Easily searchable

Search ability is one of the core advantages of a digital format, also argue that the easier it is to find research, the fewer duplicated experiments there will be, resulting in less wasted time. However, raises the problem of information overload, with information easier to find, there will be much more to read and keep up-to-date with.

Interactive

The rapid turnaround time means that articles can be read, commented on by the journal's readers, and amended much more quickly than can be done with print. The easy with which e-mail can be sent, or forms filled in means that there can be much greater feedback through the Web.

Accessible

Anderson worries that with information converted to digital formats, scholars in Third World countries will be disadvantaged, however and all argue that it is far cheaper for these researchers to get one computer with Internet access than to subscribe to many journals, so electronic journals will be a tool for "further breaking down the barriers to democratic research". For any researcher, availability from a desktop computer means a significant increase in accessibility, particularly for those who do not work within easy reach of the library. Also different layers of access can be given to different people with little extra effort, e.g. different levels of subscription allowing access to abstracts only, or full multimedia.

Links

Links are the mainstay of the hypertext format, and should be exploited. Not only can papers link to those they have cited, but with a bit of effort, they can be linked to those that cite them. describes how in *Electronic Transactions on Artificial Intelligence* they concentrate on the bibliographic part of publishing, providing current, specialized bibliographies for each of their topic areas. Considers "the intrinsic value of the links [to be] nearly as great as the content itself".

Added value

Rather than just recreate a print journal in exact format, which many of the commercial publishers are doing, advantage should be taken of all the possibilities of the Web to add value, for example by using animation, virtual reality and interactive mathematical charts. Also a large amount of supporting data can be linked to from the article if the reader wanted to look more deeply into the results. It gives the example of a "living article" which could show the results of an ongoing experiment, frequently updated.

Inexpensive

This is a hotly debated point, with claiming that a 70% saving over print costs can be made, while Whisler argues that only a 20% saving can be made as distribution costs are a low proportion of the final journal price, and even that saving will be eaten up by extra costs caused by new features.

Flexibility

sees e-journals being able to evolve quickly as they are not tied to a format, printer or distribution network.

Disadvantages of electronic journals

Difficulty reading computer screens

The main disadvantages of digital information are the limitations of the computer monitor. This leads to problems with reading, particularly over four or five screens, annotation and portability. Although the ideal would be to read information from the screen, I think that with printing facilities, this ought not to be a huge constraint on the development of e-journals, because at the moment most people photocopy library copies of journals before taking them away anyway.

Often not included in indexing and abstracting services.

Archiving

The main considerations for archiving of electronic journals are: (i) should the publishers or libraries archive the digital data? (ii) whose responsibility would it be to upgrade old data to newer formats? and (iii) if the publisher goes bust, or the editor of an independent journal gets bored or leaves their institution, what will happen to the archives? Without satisfactory answers to these questions, the role of the scholarly journal as an archival record will be compromised.

Perishable citation

Once printed, the details of a paper journal remain constant, thus finding them again is straightforward, and however web sites change their URLs or frequently disappear altogether.

Authenticity

Clarke worries about the "malleability of content in electronic form" and are concerned about establishing the source and authority of material in general, although I think that e-journals will only survive if they can convince readers of their credibility.

Search engines ignore PDF files, which is the format that a large proportion of e-journals use, particularly those which are direct copies of print versions.

Conclusion

An E-Journals are very useful to user , students and researchers for the future study. It is very easy for access on line and do the subscription on line. So no need of extra

Work to access, subscribed only payment of the journals is very costly but today some ugc also takes some steps for the government institute to give the access of E-Journals UGC Infonet).

Also you can build your library or the institute to the one of the top in the world using the latest technology and services using e-journals, e-books etc.

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