

An Assessment of Electronic Journals Access among the Faculty Members in Alagappa University

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Abstract

The article examines that most of the Associate Professors are highly aware of the availability of Scholarly journals are accessing through UGC-Infonet. The study reveals the Professors and Associate Professors largely use them for teaching purposes and Assistant professors use the resources for studying purpose. The faculty members from Science and Humanities they acquire the experience for accessing the Scholarly journals in particularly Professors and Associate professor are obtained the guidance form the Library staff and Assistant Professors are guidance from the senior faculty members to seek the experience of Scholarly journals access. It is however found that lack of training for accessing is the obstacle in proper and full utilization of Scholarly journals. The paper will help other institutes understand the need for library electronic resources, and motivate them to update the electronic resources in the focal interest of the faculty members in Alagappa University. The paper also indicates how a suitably designed survey can show the searching publishers provide the full text articles based on this preference given to JCCC gate way of Scholarly journals providers and it followed by springer link articles highly used by the team of the faculty members.

Key words: UGC-Infonet; Consortium; Scholarly journals; INFLIBNET; JCCC.

Introduction

In the early 1990s, publishers and universities explored ways of creating electronic journals that could be retrieved on the user's desktop. There was a significant growth in the number of electronic journals in these days. The 7th edition (1997) of The ARL Directory of Electronic Journals Newsletters and Academic Discussion Lists shows that the number increased from 110 in 1991 to 675 in 1995 and to a further 3,414 in 1997.[1] It is estimated that today there are about 250,000 periodicals available in all, including 25,000 in science technology and medicine. Of these, 14,246 are refereed scholarly journals and above 1,200 of these are available online

(Manalan, Senthamil & Lisa, 2007).[2] Owing to a rapid expansion of networked information and the addition of electronic resources in academic libraries, it has become necessary to study the usage of electronic information resources and to know what impact has been seen in the academic libraries.

Review related literature

The study conducted by Liew, Schubert & Chenupati (2000)[3] indicates significantly high acceptance of electronic journals by graduate students. There was strong acceptance, high expectation and enthusiasm for future electronic journals, although certain reservations remained. A survey was done at the Maryland University College to examine trends in distant students' use of library resources, services, usage patterns, needs and preferences. The results show that part time students usage pattern has changed and they favor the use of electronic resources like internet.[4] There are disciplinary differences in the use of paper and electronic formats. Most journal titles showing increases in print use also were available in electronic format.

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(Received on 31.12.2012, accepted on 28.06.2013)

Bar-Ilan (2003)[5] conducted an extensive survey of the senior academic staff of the Israeli universities on their use of electronic journals and databases. The major findings were that the use of electronic sources is already widespread among the respondents and more than 50 percent found the electronic services indispensable. Disparities were, however, found between the usage patterns in the different disciplines. The study reports on a survey of users at the IIT, Delhi as to their awareness and use of electronic resources, notably e-journals. It has been found that awareness among the users motivates them to use e-resources and services of the library. The main users of library e-resources are postgraduates, research scholars and faculty.

Heneefa & Sreelatha (2006)[6] studied the use of e-journals by doctoral students of Calicut University and found that 93.40 per cent of them had access to e-journals from the INFONET and they spent two to four hours per day searching and accessing e-journals. Features like easy and speedy access to back volumes and hyperlinks attracted the researchers towards accessing e-journals as well as access to full text browsing e-journals.

Brady, Mc cord & Galbrith (2006)[7] examined journals use in three scientific disciplines. A previous study found that print use increased after electronic access was added. This paper used the same methods to determine if the increase in the use of the paper has continued and in fact a cultural shift happened between the two studies. Although the use of paper journals increased with the advent of e-journals, a shift in use patterns occurred with patrons now favoring electronic formats. Natarajan, Suresh, Sivaraman & Sevugan (2010)[8] have analyzed the survey of 117 faculty members and research scholars on use and use perception of electronic resources in Annamalai University reveals that despite the availability of wide range of e-resources the frequency of their use was low. The reasons identified for this are lack of time, lack of awareness, Lack of subject coverage and slow downloading.

UGC infonet digital library consortium

This consortium was formally launched in December 2003, it is a national initiative for providing access to scholarly electronic resources including more than 5000 core and peer-reviewed full-text journals and bibliographic databases in all subject disciplines from different publishers/aggregators for the benefit of academic community of selected universities in India. The access to e-resources was given to 50 universities in the first phase in 2004 and at present it has been extended to 157 universities in the country. INFLIBNET Centre, the driving force behind the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium. The UGC-Infonet has brought a revolution in the service provision of university libraries in the country, LIS professionals have naturally been attracted to know the use of the consortium's e-resources by the teachers, researchers and students.

Alagappa University: A profile

Alagappa University was brought into existence by a Special Act of the Government of Tamilnadu in May 1985 with the objective of fostering research, development and dissemination of knowledge in various branches of learning. Alagappa University is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India. The University has 18 Departments, 5 Centres and 2 Constituent Colleges on its campus. 28 Affiliated Colleges located in the districts of Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram are part of the University. The University offers education through Regular, Week-end, Distance and Collaborative modes.

Objectives of the study

The following objectives have been practiced for this study to find out the access of scholarly Electronic journals from UGC-Infonet.

- a) To Know the awareness of Scholarly electronic journals among the faculty members of Alagappa University from

UGC-Infonet.

- b) To study the momentum of utilization of e-journals by the faculty members from the UGC-Infonet.
- c) To determine the level satisfaction of users of the faculty members on electronic journals and;
- d) To observe the methods learning are adopt for accessing the electronic journals and;
- e) To examine the effectiveness of electronic journals for upgrading in their academic performance in obtaining the scholarly information from UGC-Infonet.

Research Methodology

The present study brings to know, through a systematic way of approach to collect the relevant data by opinion survey. It has been analyzed fact on the faculty members make use of the Scholarly journals and other resources from the UGC-Infonet at Alagappa University. The researcher found that users may have influenced by Scholarly journals form UGC-Infonet, it is a prime consortium make a convergence of sources in Science and Technology. The study has been analyzed a descriptive survey method under a questionnaire pattern to design as the data collection. The questionnaire is categorized into three parts the first one is collected data on demographic information on gender, age and designation; the second section emphasized on the awareness of scholarly journals and purpose of use of teaching activities and also the method of learning to make use of scholarly journals from UGC-Infonet. The third section explained the faculty members opinions about awareness, Method of learning and effectiveness use of and accessing the full text articles in scholarly journals from UGC-Infonet.

Analysis

The data collected form the faculty members

in the Science and Humanities of Alagappa University, this survey taken and analyzed in this study. The paper will help other institutes understand the need for scholarly journals access from UGC-Infonet. The study focused on preference of scholarly journals, Awareness, method of learning, Purpose of access and effectiveness scholarly access the journals by the faculty members would be presented here.

Demographic characteristics of respondents

The data presented in Table 1 indicate the demographic characteristics of respondents. It shows that distributed questionnaire to male faculty members 108 (89.25%) and female faculty members 15 (12.39%) were selected faculty members from the Science and Humanities for getting the scholarly information through UGC-Infonet. It has been analyzed 42.97 per cent of the respondents taking part in the age group 36-45 years. Some 28.92 per cent of respondents are in the age group 25-35 years and 28.09 per cent of respondents are in the age group 25-36. Moreover from the table 1 reveals more number of respondents belongs to Assistant Professor 76 (62.80%) comparatively greater than 40.49 percent Associate Professor. The respondents belong to in the category of professor only 14.87 percent.

Discipline wise respondents

The users are more interested for accessing the scholarly journals form UGC-Infonet among the faculties from Science and Humanities background, how they involved for accessing the scholarly journals among the teaching community to their academic activities. Table 2 indicates that faculty member from science discipline about 54 (44.62%). There are nine departments faculty members were responded to this study, in this context Industrial chemistry 7 (5.78%), Physics 6 (4.95%), Mathematics 8(6.61%), Computer Science 9 (7.43%), Biotechnology 9 (7.43%),

Table 1: Demographic characteristic of respondents

S.No	Demography of respondents (n=121)		Nos.	Percent
1	Gender	Male	108	89.25
		Female	15	12.39
2	Age	25-35	34	28.09
		36-45	52	42.97
		>46	35	28.92
3	Designation	Assistant Professor	76	62.80
		Associate Professor	27	22.31
		Professor	18	14.87

Table 2: Discipline-wise respondents

Faculty	Department	Nos.	percent
Science	Industrial Chemistry	7	5.78
	Physics	6	4.95
	Mathematics	8	6.61
	Computer Science	9	7.43
	Biotechnology	9	7.43
	Nano Science & Tech.	6	4.95
	Oceanography	2	1.65
	Bioinformatics	4	3.30
	Animal Health & Mgt.	3	2.47
Humanities	Library & Information Sc.	3	2.47
	Management	3	2.47
	English	18	14.87
	Education	2	1.65
	Physical Education	16	13.22
	Tamil	12	9.91
	Rural Development	2	1.65
	Commerce	12	9.91

Nano science and technology 6 (4.95%), Oceanography 2 (1.65%), Bioinformatics 4 (3.30%) and Animal Health management 3 (2.47%). It has been brought the data received from the Humanities faculty members about 67 (55.37 %), the response of the department of Library and Information Science 3 (2.47%), Management 3 (2.47%), English 18 (14.87%), Education 2 (1.65%), Physical Education 16 (13.22%), Tamil 12 (9.91%), Rural Development 2 (1.65%) and Commerce 12 (9.91%).

where as they aware Good 13 (27.63%) and poor 13 (17.10%) , with respondents 19 (70.10%) of Associate professors are being more aware comparatively next two stages Good and poor is responded 6 (2.22%) and 2 (7.40%) respectively. Moreover out of 10 professors who are more aware of scholarly journals through UGC-Infonet with 11 (6.11%). However, professors are slightly aware about scholarly information on UGC-Infonet with 6 (33.33) and not ware of the resources only 1 (5.55%).

Awareness of scholarly journals access

Table 3 shows the awareness of Scholarly Journals access among the faculty members. It is clear from the table that 45 (55.26%) of Assistant professor are aware of electronic sources of information as indicated very good,

Purpose of use of scholarly journals

The table 4 shows, five reasons were categorized listed which respondents were allowed to choose reason for using electronic sources. The interest of purpose to get the scholarly information form UGC-Infonet by the

Table 3: Awareness of Scholarly journals in UGC-Infonet

S.No	Designation	Very Good	Good	Poor
1	Assistant Professor	42 (55.26)	21 (27.63)	13 (17.10)
2	Associate Professor	19 (70.37)	6 (2.22)	2 (7.40)
3	Professor	11 (61.11)	6(33.33)	1 (5.55)

Table 4: Purpose of use of UGC-Infonet journals

S.No	Designation	Teaching	Study	Research	Paper publish	Knowledge update
1	Assistant Professor	21 (27.63)	27 (35.52)	19 (25)	18 (23.68)	21 (27.63)
2	Associate professor	12 (44.44)	4 (14.81)	7 (25.92)	11 (40.74)	8 (29.62)
3	Professor	9 (50)	4 (22.22)	6 (33.33)	7 (38.88)	6 (33.33)

Table 5: Methods of learning about Scholarly access

S.No	Learning Skills	Assistant Professor	Associate professor	Professor
1	Guidance from Library staff	18(23.68)	13 (48.14)	7 (38.88)
2	Guidance from the senior faculty	21 (27.63)	8 (29.62)	4 (22.22)
3	By the advice of friends	17 (22.36)	5 (18.51)	2 (11.11)
4	By trial and error	8 (10.52)	4 (14.81)	3 (16.66)
5	Attending course/ training offered by the university	12(15.78)	3(11.11)	2(11.11)

respondents. The major reasons for respondents of Assistant Professors more access for study purpose 27 (35.52%), where they want to access the scholarly information for teaching 21 (27.63%), Research 19 (25%), Paper publish 18 (23.68%) and Knowledge update 21 (27.63%) of the respondents. Out of 27 respondents of Associate professors the purpose of access scholarly information for teaching with 12 (44.44). However other purposes of Paper publish 11 (40.74%), Research 7 (25.92%), Study 4 (14.81%) and Knowledge update 8 (29.62%) of the respondents. Whereas, number of respondents whose are professors 9 (50%) they highly prefer the scholarly information for teaching purpose. Moreover who needful for getting the information form UGC- Infonet paper publish (38.88%), Research and Knowledge update 6 (33.33%), rest of the professors are interested for accessing the scholarly information only 4 (22.22%).

Methods of learning about scholarly journals

The data is presented in Table 5 and shows the respondents were asked to indicate the skills used for making use of scholarly information about UGC-Infonet. It is evident

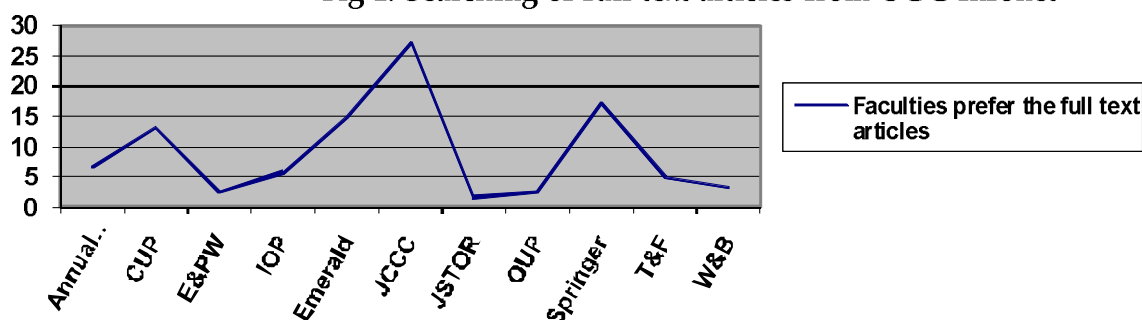
that 31.4 per cent of respondents learnt by guidance by library staff, while 27.27 per cent learnt by the guidance from the teachers. Methods of learning to make use of scholarly information from different subjects according to availability of resources form UGC-infonet. A total of 19.83 per cent of total respondents and 12.39 per cent of the three categories learnt it by the advice of friends and trial and error method. Out of 121 teaching faculties were responded to this study among these 9.91 per cent of Assistant Professor, 2.47 percent of Associate Professor and 1.65 percent of professors were reported to method of access for scholarly information by attending Course/ training offered by the University.

Searching of full-text articles from UGC-Infonet journals

The scholarly journals are available in Science, Management, Social Science and Education disciplines of journals published by Emerald, Taylor and Francis, Wiley and Blackwell and Springer and other popular publishers and aggregator. The number of faculty members who search the full-text journals published by these publishers is presented in Table 6. It is noted that the JCCC

Table 6: Searching of full text articles

S.No	Publisher	No. of faculty members
1	Annual reviews	8 (6.61)
2	Cambridge University Press	16 (13.22)
3	Economic & Political Weekly	3 (2.47)
4	Institute of Physics	7 (5.78)
5	Emerald	18 (14.87)
6	JCCC	33 (27.27)
7	JSTOR	2 (1.65)
8	Oxford University press	3 (2.47)
9	Springer link	21 (17.35)
10	Taylor and Francis	6 (4.95)
11	Wiley and Blackwell	4 (3.30)

Fig 1: Searching of full text articles from UGC-Infonet

is the leading aggregator which initiated by the Informatics India as 33 (27.27) percent of faculty members who responded in the study. It followed by Springer link 21 (17.35) percent, Emerald 18 (14.87) per cent, Cambridge University Press 16 (13.22) percent, Annual reviews 8 (6.61) percent, Institute of Physics 7 (5.78) percent, Taylor and Francis 6 (4.95) percent, Wiley Blackwell 4 (3.30) percent, Economic & Political Weekly and Oxford University press both publishers equally access 3 (2.47) percent and very small number of faculty members access JSTOR publication journals shows 2 (1.65) percent is also shows in Fig 1.

Effectiveness on e-journals of UGC-Infonet

Table 7 shows the impact of e-journals on

academic efficiency and research work. The information available in e-journals form UGC-Infonet has proved to be a great tool to many of the faculty members in Alagappa University. 42.10 percent of Assistant Professors, 70.37 percent of Associate professors and 44.44 percent of professors revealed that they have been able to expedite their research process with the e-journals from UGC-Infonet. 36.84 percent of Assistant Professors, 44.44 percent of Associate professors and 38.88 percent of Professors have replied that e-journals form UGC- Infonet with Enhances their professional competence. The faculties of 35.52 percent of Assistant professors, 59.25 percent of Associate professors and 38.88 percent of Professors

Table 7: Effectiveness on e- journals of UGC-Infonet

S. No	Effectiveness	Assistant Professor	Associate professor	Professor
1	Fast research process	32 (42.10)	19 (70.37)	8 (44.44)
2	Enhance professional competence	28 (36.84)	12 (44.44)	7 (38.88)
3	Access current information	27 (35.52)	16 (59.25)	7 (38.88)
4	Fast access of Information	17 (22.36)	11 (40.74)	6 (33.33)

exhibited that faculty members had agreed upon given current information. About 22.36 percent of Assistant Professors, 40.74 percent of Associate professors and 33.33 percent of Professors replied the e-journals form UGC-Infonet provided faster access of information.

Conclusion

The scholarly journals from UGC-Infonet are accessed frequently by the faculty members there are nine departments faculty members were responded to this study.. Out of seventy six the more number 55.26 percent of Assistant professor are aware of scholarly journals from UGC-Infonet. As indicated in the study the Associate professors the purpose of access scholarly information for teaching with 44.44 percent and Assistant Professors more access the journals for study purpose 35.52 percent. Out of 121 teaching faculties were responded to this study among these 9.91 per cent of Assistant Professor, 2.47 percent of Associate Professor and 1.65 percent of professors were reported to method of access for scholarly journals through attending Course/training offered by the University. It has been observed journals accessed form JCCC as shown majority responded reported 27.27 percent of faculty members; It followed more numbers journals accessed from Springer link 17.35 percent. It has been found from the study 42.10 percent of Assistant Professors, 70.37 percent of Associate professors and 44.44 percent of professors have been able to expedite their research process under the Infonet journals. Moreover, the satisfaction level of the faculty members in the science and humanities in Alagappa University analyzed with regard to use of scholarly journals is large extent. The study also shows that most of the faculty members who are in age group 36-45 reportedly 43 percent. The faculty members out of 121 respondent majorities of people are Assistant professors totally 62.80 percent responded to this study in Alagappa University. The scholarly journals will help to proved challenging and it brings quality of research information and innovation

techniques on modern inventions of faculty members from academic and research institutions. The UGC- Infonet highly support to provide highly refereed journals form the JCCC, Springer link, Emerald and Taylor and Francis and other useful journals in Alagappa University. They have been able to keep themselves abreast with latest information and improve their research and professional competences at global context.

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