



Use and Awareness of E-journal by Research Scholars and Faculty Members in Geography Department of Aligarh Muslim University: a study

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Abstract

The purpose of the present study is to find out the use, awareness and level of satisfaction in using e-journal by research scholar and faculty members in the Geography department of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). For the present study survey method has been adopted. 71 structured questionnaires were distributed among the research scholars and faculty members. Collected data have been organised and analysed by using Microsoft Excel and SPSS software. The study found that most of the objectives are met satisfactory. Majority of the research scholars and faculty members responded that their research is very much affected by e-journals. After analysing some problematic issues, it shows that lack of training was identified as major problem faced by the research scholar and faculty members followed by slow speed of internet. Searching, downloading, and printing are minor issues faced by the respondents. Study shows that JSTOR is the important database preferred by respondents followed by Taylor and Francis and Springer online. Author is the first choice for locating citation followed by title.

Keywords: AMU, E-journal, Faculty member, Geography department, ICT, Library, Research scholar

1. Introduction

Over the past few decades, methods of doing research have been changed. This changing pattern has also affected the research communities. Nowadays it is a must for the researcher to be aware and updated about the latest ICT based tools and techniques to accomplish his/her research work. In this era of the information revolution, only printed books and journals are not sufficient for the research work. Information and communication technology

has changed the concept of information seeking behaviour among researchers.

Digital information and electronic resources are of paramount importance for the researchers. E-journals are journals that are available on the internet via computer, they may or may not have printer counterparts. The present study aims to find out the use and awareness of e-journals by research scholars and faculty members in the Geography department of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.



2. Review of literature

In exploring the multifaceted role of e-journals in academic research, Brown and Davis (2020) provided insights into future trends in e-journal access and use, offering implications for academic institutions navigating evolving landscapes in scholarly communication. Wang and Chen (2019) evaluated the quality of e-journals, offering a structured analysis of assessment criteria. Sharma and Verma (2019) furthered the exploration by delving into the information-seeking behaviour of research scholars in accessing e-journals, contributing to a nuanced understanding of scholarly information exploration dynamics. Smith and Johnson (2018) within a university department provided valuable insights into faculty perceptions and usage patterns of e-journals, shedding light on the practical dynamics of electronic resource utilisation. Li and Chen (2018) delved into faculty and research scholar perspectives on technological barriers to e-journal use, providing insights into overcoming obstacles in accessing e-journals. Kumar and Gupta (2017) offered valuable insights into the impact of library support on e-journal usage among faculty and research scholars. Turning to the broader context of e-journal use in academic settings, Jeyaraj and Chinnsamy (2017) conducted a comprehensive review, assessing the impact and significance of e-journals within scholarly pursuits. Anderson and Williams (2016) focused on assessing awareness and access, highlighting challenges and opportunities in utilising electronic resources. Naushad Ali (2012) discussed that use of electronic information services among IITs underscored the importance of Boolean logic in search facilities, revealing common challenges faced by users during e-resource browsing. Similarly, Bhatt (2010) emphasised the

crucial role of e-journals in research and development, highlighting the transition from print to electronic media and discussing various aspects such as types, characteristics, consortia, and archival issues. Raza and Upadhyay (2006) studied e-journal use at Aligarh Muslim University and reported widespread awareness among research scholars and faculty members, emphasising the dual role of e-journals for research and knowledge updating, while noting challenges such as linking problems, slow speed, and need for training.

3. Significance of the study

After reviewing the related literature, it is found that a lot of research has been done on the topic of use and awareness of e-journals in India and abroad on a broad level but there is no specific and systemic research work has been done so far on this particular topic of use and awareness of e-journal by research scholars and faculty members in the Geography department of AMU. Therefore, the study is very relevant in the present scenario of ever-increasing demand for e-resources among researchers, faculty members and scientists.

4. Objectives of the study

- To know about the use and awareness of e-journals by research scholars and faculty members in Geography department of AMU
- To know the purpose of using e-journals by research scholars and faculty members.
- To know the research output after using e-journals
- To assess the user's satisfaction with the availability of e-journal
- To find out the hindrances faced by the users while using e-journals.



5. Research methodology

For the present study survey method has been adopted. A total of seventy-one (71) questionnaires were distributed among research scholars and faculty members. Fifty (50) questionnaires were distributed among the research scholars and twenty-one (21)

questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members. A total of seventy (70) questionnaires were received back from research scholars and faculty members. Collected data have been organised and analysed using Microsoft Excel and SPSS software.

6. Data analysis and interpretation

6.1 Questionnaire distribution and response rate

Table 1: Distribution of questionnaires and response rate

Category	Questionnaire Distribution	Questionnaire Received	Percentage
Research scholar	50	49	98%
Faculty	21	21	100%

Table 1 shows the questionnaire distribution and response rate. It is shown that out of 50 questionnaires 49 (98%) were received from

the research scholars and 21 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members, the receiving rate is 100%.

6.2 Visit to the library

Table 2: Visit to the library

Frequency	Research scholar	Percentage	Faculty member	Percentage
Daily	45	91.83%	10	47.61%
Weekly	04	8.16%	09	42.85%
Monthly	0	0	02	9.5%
Twice a month	0	0	0	0
Never	0	0	0	0

The above table shows that 91.83% of researcher scholars visit the library daily followed by 47.61% of faculty members. 8.16% of research scholars visit the library

weekly while 42.85% of faculty members visit weekly basis. Only 9.5% of faculty members visit the library at least once a month.

6.3 Place of accessing e-journals

Table 3: Place of access to e-journal

Place	Research scholar	Percentage	Faculty member	Percentage
Dept. Lab	30	61.2%	17	80.95%
Computer Lab	5	10.2%	0	0
Central Library	14	28.5%	4	19.04%



The above table shows that 61.2 % of research scholars access the e-journals from their departmental lab followed by 80.95 faculty members while 10.2% of research scholars access through computer lab and no

faculty members access through computer lab. 28.5% of research scholar access through central library followed by 19.4% of faculty members.

6.4 Research affected by e-journals

Table 4: Research affected by e-journals

Response	Research scholar	Percentage	Faculty Members	Percentage
Yes	49	100%	19	90.47%
No	0	0	2	9.52%

The above table shows that 100% of research scholars responded that their research is affected by e-journals followed by

90.47% of faculty members while only 2% of faculty members responded that their research is not affected by e-journals.

6.5 Frequency of using e-journal

Table 5: Frequency of using e-journal

Frequency	Research scholar	Percentage	Faculty members	Percentage
Some times	4	8.16%	5	23.80%
Frequently	35	89.74%	14	66.66%
Always	10	20.40%	2	9.5%
Rarely	0	0	0	0
Never	0	0	0	0

Respondents' frequency of using e-journals revealed in table 5 shows that 8.16% of research scholars use e-journals sometimes followed by 23.80% of faculty members. 89.74% of research scholars use e-journals

frequently followed by 66.66% of faculty members. Only 20.40 % of research scholars and 9.5 % of faculty members use e-journals always.

6.6 Method of reading e-journal

Table 6: Method of reading e-journal

Method of reading e-journal	Research scholar	Percentage	Faculty members	Percentage
Save the article on computer/CD/ Pen drive and read it later	40	81.63%	12	24.48%
Take a printout and read it later	3	6.12%	5	10.20%
Read the article from desktop	6	12.24%	4	19.04%



Table number 6 shows that 81.63% of research scholars and 24.48% of faculty members prefer to save the article on a computer/CD/Pen drive and read it later while 6.12% of research scholars and 10.20% of

faculty members like to take a print out and read it later. Only 12.24% of research scholars and 19.04% of faculty members prefer to read the article from the desktop.

6.7 Adequacy of e-journal on Geography

Table 7: Adequacy of e-journal on Geography

Opinion on Adequacy	Research scholar	Percentage	Faculty member	Percentage
Agree	14	28.57%	5	23.80%
Strongly Agree	35	71.42%	16	76.19%
Disagree	0	0	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0	0
Do not know	0	0	0	0

The above table shows that 28.57% of research scholars agreed on the adequacy of e-journals on Geography followed by 23.80% of faculty members while 71.42% of research scholars strongly agreed on the adequacy of e-

journals on Geography followed by 23.80% of faculty members. No one responded to the questions of disagree, strongly disagree and don't know.

6.8 Sources that provide information about e-journals

Table 8: Source that provides information about e-journal

Sources	Research Scholar	Percentage	Faculty Members	Percentage
Print journal	5	10.20%	6	28.57%
Lib.Professional	25	51.02%	19	90.47%
Teachers	32	65.30%	10	47.61%
Internet	15	30.61%	12	57.14%
Colleague	25	51.02%	15	71.42%
Any others	2	4.08%	0	0

(Multiple Answer)

It is clear from table 8 that 10.20% of research scholars came to know about e-journals from the printed journal followed by 28.57% of faculty members. 51.02% of research scholars got the information about e-journals from library professionals followed by 90.47% of faculty members while 65.30% of research scholars got the information from e-journals from teachers followed by 47.61%

of faculty members 30.61% of research scholars and 57.14% faculty members knew about e-journal from internet platform. 51.02% research scholar got the information from their colleagues followed by 71.42% faculty members. Only 4.08% of research scholars got the information from other sources.



6.9 Access point prefer for locating a citation

Table 9: Access point prefer for locating a citation

Access Point	Research Scholar	Percentage	Faculty Members	Percentage
Author	40	81.63%	18	36.73%
Title	09	18.36%	3	6.12%
Journal	0	0	0	0
Vol/issue/page	0	0	0	0

The above table shows that 81.63% of research scholars prefer to locate citations through the author followed by 36.73% of faculty members while 18.36% of research scholars prefer through titles followed by 6.12% of faculty members.

6.10 Awareness of e-journal consortium

Table 10: Awareness of e-journals consortium

Response	Research Scholar	Percentage	Faculty Members	Percentage
Yes	49	100%	21	100%
No	0	0%	0	0%
Total	49		21	

It is shown in the above table that all the research scholars and faculty members are well aware of e-journal consortium.

6.11 Online database of e-journal prefer

Table 11: Preference of online database of e-journal

Online Database	Research scholar	Percentage	Faculty Members	Percentage
Oxford university press	42	85.71%	18	85.71%
JSTOR	45	91.83%	20	95.23%
Cambridge University Press	32	65.30%	17	80.95%
Economic and political Review	20	40.81%	15	71.42%
Taylor and Francis	41	83.67%	20	95.23%
Springer online	43	87.75%	19	90.47%
Project Muse	10	20.40%	12	57.14%
Indian Journal.com	32	65.30%	15	71.42%
J-Gate	30	61.22%	18	85.71%
Annual Reviews	33	67.34%	11	52.38%

(Multiple Answer)

From the above table, it is clear that JSTOR is the most preferable database used by research scholars and faculty members followed by Taylor and Francis database. 87.75% of research scholars and 90.47% of faculty

members prefer Springer Online Database while 83.67% of research scholars and 95.23% of faculty members prefer Taylor and Francis Database. 85.71% of research scholars and faculty members prefer Oxford



University Press and 65.30% of research scholars prefer Cambridge University Press followed by 80.955 faculty members 40.81% of research scholars and 71.42% of faculty members prefer EPW. 65.30% of research scholar and 71.42% of faculty members prefer Indian Journal.com.61.22% of

research scholars followed by 85.71% of faculty members prefer J-Gate database.67.34% of research scholars followed by 52.38% of faculty members prefer Annual Reviews and 20.40% research scholars followed by 57.14% faculty members prefer Project Muse Database.

6.12 Purpose of using e-journal

Table 12: Purpose of using e-journal

Purpose	Research Scholar	Percentage	Faculty Members	Percentage
Research Need	49	100%	21	100%
Education	35	71.42%	16	76.19%
Writing Article	49	100%	21	100%
Teaching assignment	0	0	10	47.61%
Current info. Need	15	30.61%	15	71.42%
Presentation	32	65.30%	16	32.65%

(Multiple Answer)

100 percent of research scholars and faculty members use e-journals for their research needs. 71.42% of research scholars use it for education purposes followed by 76.19% of faculty members while 100% of research scholars and faculty members use it for writing articles. Only 47.61% of faculty

members use it to teach assignments 30.61% of research scholars and 71.42% of faculty members use it for current information need while 65.30% of research scholars and 32.65% of faculty members use it for presentation purposes.

6.13 Problems faced while using e-journals

Table 13: Problems faced while using e-journals

Problems faced	Research scholar	Percentage	Faculty members	Percentage
Searching	10	20.40%	5	23.80%
Downloading	8	16.32%	2	9.52%
Browsing	5	10.20%	3	14.28%
Slow speed	30	61.22%	12	57.14%
Lack of training	40	81.63%	15	71.42%
Printing	6	12.24%	3	14.28%

(Multiple Answer)

The above table shows that 20.40% of research scholars and 23.80% of faculty members face searching problems while 16.32% of research scholars and 9.52 faculty

members face downloading problems. 10.20% of research scholars and 14.28% of faculty members face browsing problems. 61.22% of research scholars and 57.14 faculty



members face slow speed of internet. 81.63% of research scholars and 71.42% of faculty members face a lack of training in searching

e-resources. 12.24% of research scholars and 14.28% of faculty members face printing problems.

6.14 Satisfaction with library services

Table 14: Satisfaction with library services

Response	Research Scholar	Percentage	Faculty Members	Percentage
Yes	46	93.87	20	95.23
No	03	6.12	01	4.76

The above table shows that 93.87% of research scholars and 95.23% of faculty members are satisfied with the services provided by their library while 6.12% of research scholars and 4.76% of faculty members responded that they are not satisfied with the library services.

7. Discussion

The result shows that most of the objectives of the study are met satisfactorily. Study shows that all the research scholars and faculty members are well aware of e-journals and e-journal consortia. It was found that most of the research scholars and faculty members have access to the e-journals from the departmental lab. Research is found to be the most important purpose of using e-journals besides writing articles, education, and presentation purposes. Most of the research scholars and faculty members use e-journals frequently. Library professionals are identified as the main source that gives information about e-journals followed by colleagues, teachers, and internet and print journals. Slow speed, unorganisedness, and lack of training are the important problems faced by research scholars and faculty members. Study shows that JSTOR is the most preferable database used by research scholars and faculty members followed by Taylor and Francis and Springer databases. Most of the research scholars and faculty members are satisfied with the library

services. The majority of the research scholars and faculty members feel that user training and workshops are useful for increasing the usage of e-journals among the research scholars and faculty members.

8. Suggestions

- I. More high-speed internet connectivity should be arranged in the department to facilitate research scholars and faculty members.
- ii. More number of computer professionals in the computer lab for research scholars and faculty members.
- iii. Needs additional number of qualified computer professionals for handling hardware and software issues.
- iv. Librarians should conduct a greater number of library orientation programmes and workshop cum hands-on practices to improve the efficiency of the users.
- v. E-journal lab in the department should provide printing facilities to the students and faculty members.
- vi. Electronic Journal having high impact factor should be subscribed.



- vii. Library should have organised workshops regularly to enhance the usage of e-journals.
- viii. Library professional have to create more awareness functions to market their new e-journal services being provided in the library.

9. Conclusion

Regarding the advantages of e-resources for real time use in users' convenient ways, it is gradually becoming very popular among research scholars and faculty members. More innovative awareness programmes by library can increase the usage of e-resources in Geography department of AMU. The study is also very much indicative of other departments of AMU. It is an eye-opening insight presented in this study which will surely provide the element for future action.

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