

AWARENESS, ACCESS AND USAGE OF E-JOURNALS AMONG RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF NIT ROURKELA: A SURVEY



Sk Abdul Gaffar

**Library trainee, Central Library,
NIT Rourkela**

Dr. Bhojaraju Gunjal

**Head, Central Library,
NIT Rourkela**



INTRODUCTION

- Electronic journals (e-Journals) as one type of Electronic resources have become a major resource for research community for their information gathering that can play an important role in their research work.
- There is no standard definition for E-journals. As a result they have called by various names such as E-journals, network journals, paperless journals, virtual journals and CD-ROM journals etc...

Definition:

According to Pullinger, D, Brain and Schkel (1990) "e- journal is one whose input text may be entered directly by a computer or by other file transfer mechanisms in a machine readable form, whose editorial processing is facilitated by a computer and whose articles are thus made available in electronic form to readers.

CATEGORIES OF E-JOURNALS

E-journals can be grouped under the following three broad categories:

- **Online Journals:** These are paid journals that are available on 'pay-as-you' or 'cost per access' basis via online databases such as Knight-Rider Information Inc (Dialog), Information Service. Such journals are not considered as a part of library collection because in most libraries are rarely allowed free or ultimate access to remote online system.
- **CD-Rom Journals full-text:** They vary in frequency and are distributed along with search software to access and print.
- **Network E-Journals:** Network e-journals are electronic journals, available over network, such as Internet, BITNET or any other commercial network. Examples of network e-journals is e-newsletters,

E-JOURNALS DISTRIBUTION

Electronic journals are predominantly distributed in two ways:

- **Through Aggregators:** These offer a group of title from different publisher through one interface. Examples for aggregators are: Ovid, EBSCO etc.
- **Through Publisher:** Titles are directly through the Internet which allows the publisher to completely control the process.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following objectives have been framed for this study

- To study the level of awareness among the research scholars about the existence of the e-journal resources subscribed by the central library.
- To find out the purpose of the using of e-journals by the research scholars.
- To analyse the frequency of using of e-journals among research scholars.
- To find out the problems encountered by the research scholars.
- To determine the importance of e-journals among research scholars.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Statement of the problem

The Biju Patnaik Central Library (BPCL) at NIT, Rourkela invests huge amount every year on e-journals, in this scenario there is need for a study to understand and analyse the usage of it from the users in different perspectives. This study investigated different perspectives such as awareness, access and usage of E-journals among the research scholar's.

Scope of the study

- For this study, the following scope has been defined.
- Respondents: Only Research scholars are taken into consideration.
- Questionnaires: 150 questionnaires collected from 700 research scholars.
- E-Resources: only e-Journal is considered among the various types of e-resources subscribed by library.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey Data Collection

A survey will be the most appropriate method for this study. The present study, primary data are collected through survey method by preparing Close-ended and Open-ended Structured Questionnaire.

Method of collecting data –

- Group mail sent to all research scholars with questionnaire and
- Personal meeting with the scholars.

Site, Population of Study and Sampling Procedure

The research population of this study was selected among research scholars of M.Tech(R) and Ph.D. of NIT Rourkela adopting convenient sampling

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Respondent's profile - belongs to Ph.D. and M.Tech (R) courses from different departments.

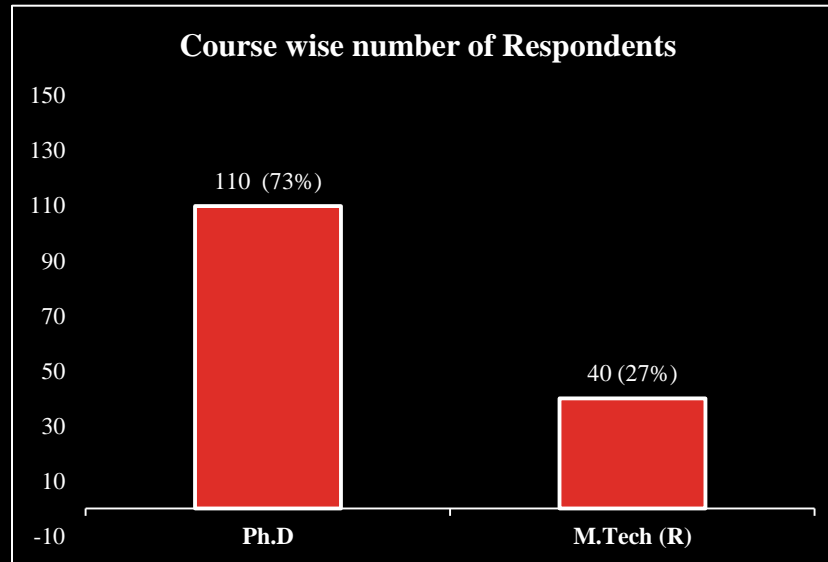


Figure 1: Course wise number of Respondents

From the total 700 questionnaires distributed among scholars and 150 scholars responded back. Ph.D.110 (73%) and M.Tech(R) 40(27%) that consisted of the scholars of NIT Rourkela irrespective of their courses and discipline.

A. AWARENESS ASPECT

Here the data analysis pertaining to awareness aspect has been explained as below:

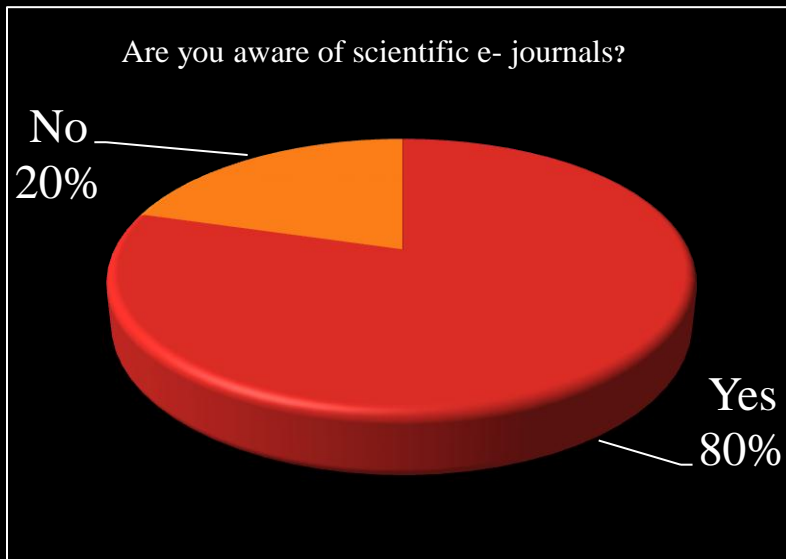


Figure 2: Awareness level of online scientific e- journals of the respondents.

Figure 2 represents that 120 (80%) of the respondents they have good awareness level about 30 (20%) of the respondents they are not aware of online scientific e-journals.

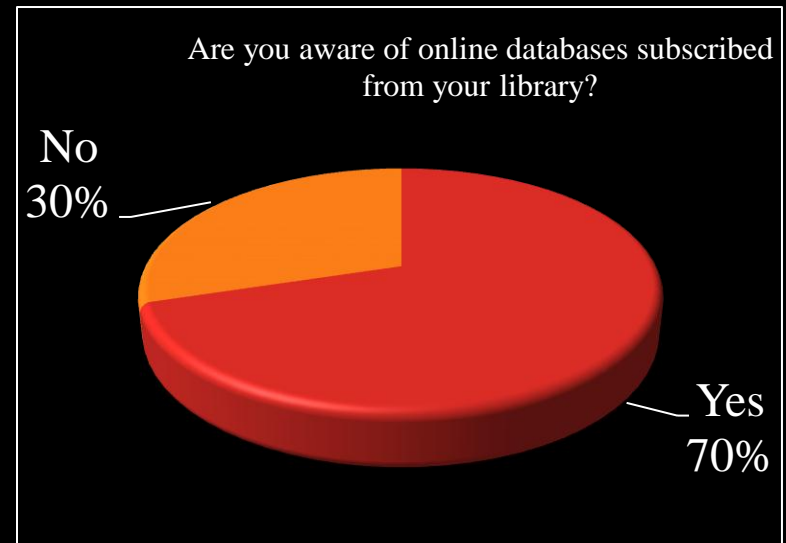


Figure 3: Awareness level of online databases subscribed from library of the respondents.

Figure 3 shows that 105(70%) of the respondents they have aware of online database and 30% of the respondents are not aware of online databases.

CONT...

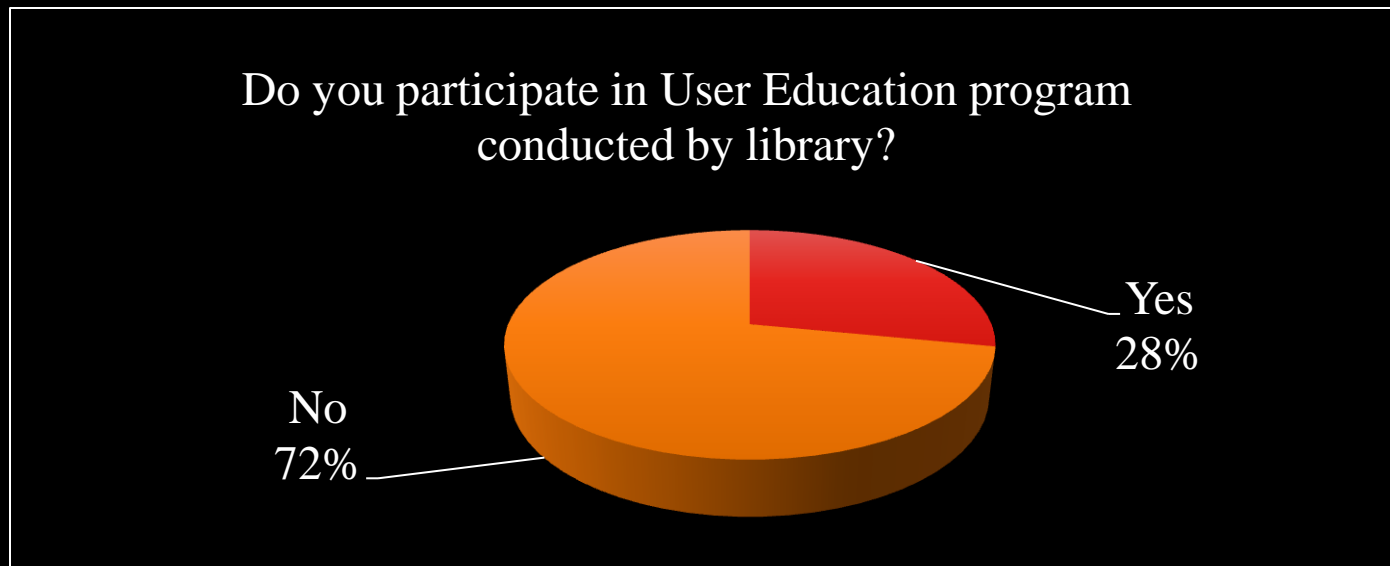


Figure 4: Awareness level of User Education program conducted by library of the respondents.

Figure 4 represents that 108(72%) of the respondents they are not participate in User Education program conducted by the library (BPCL) and even they are not aware of user education program but only 42(28%) of the respondents they participate in User Education program conducted by the library (BPCL).

B. ACCESS ASPECTS

In this section data analysis pertaining to access aspects has been explained to following:

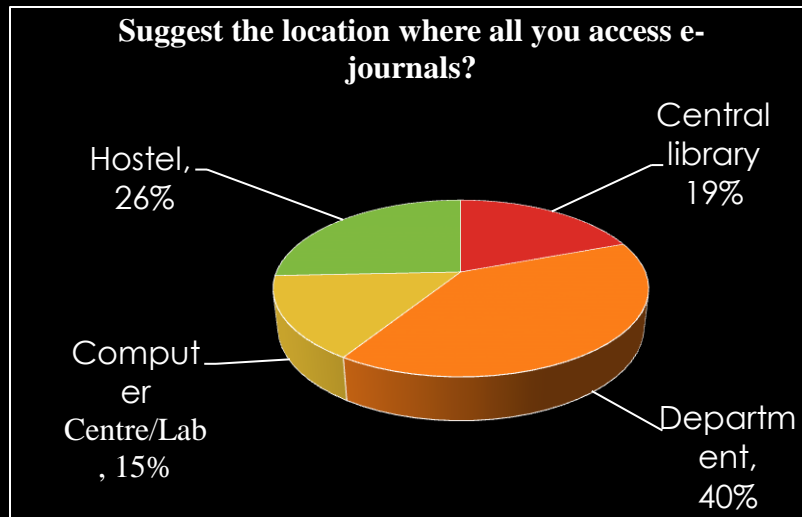


Figure 5: Accessing e-journals while using several location by the respondents

Figure 5 represent that 88 (40%) of the respondents are say using Department, 57 (26%) of the respondents are say using Hostel, 43 (19%) of the respondents are say using Central library and remain 34 (15%) of the respondents are say using Computer Centre/Lab for Accessing e-journals.

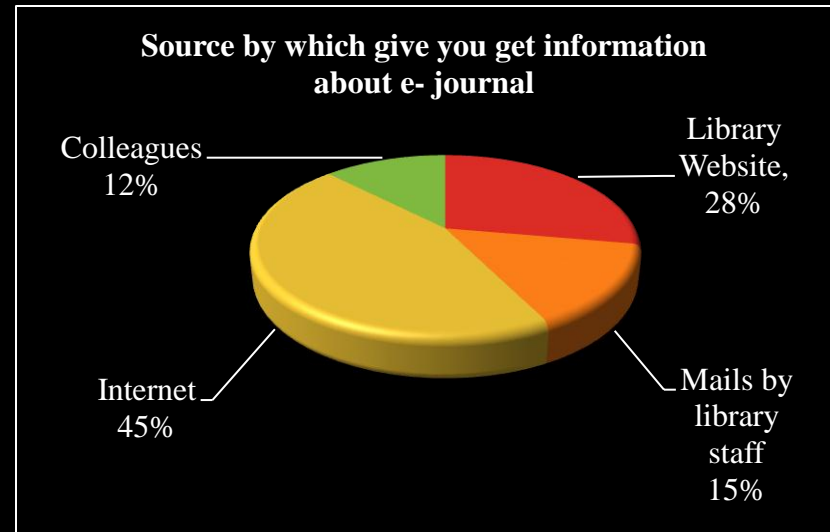


Figure 6: Using several source by the respondents of getting information of e- journal

Figure 6 shows that 94(45%) of the respondents are using internet, 58(28%) of the respondents are using library website, 31(15%) of the respondents are using Mails by library staff and very few 26(12%) of the respondents are using their colleagues help to getting information of e- journal.

CONT....

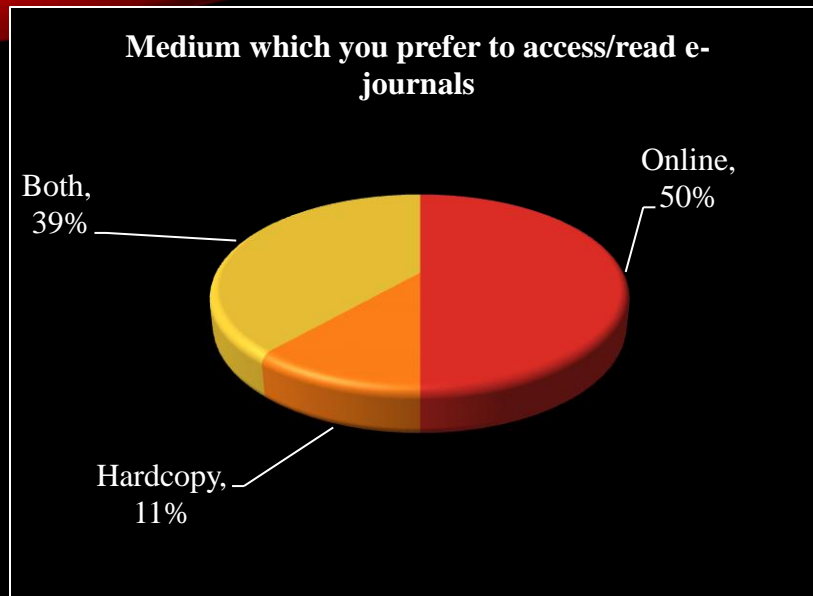


Figure 7: Respondents prefer Medium to access/read e-journals

Figure 7 represents that 74 (50%) of the respondents prefer online medium, 57 (39%) of the respondents prefer both (Hard copy and soft copy) and only 17 (11%) of the respondents prefer only hard copy to access/read e-journals.

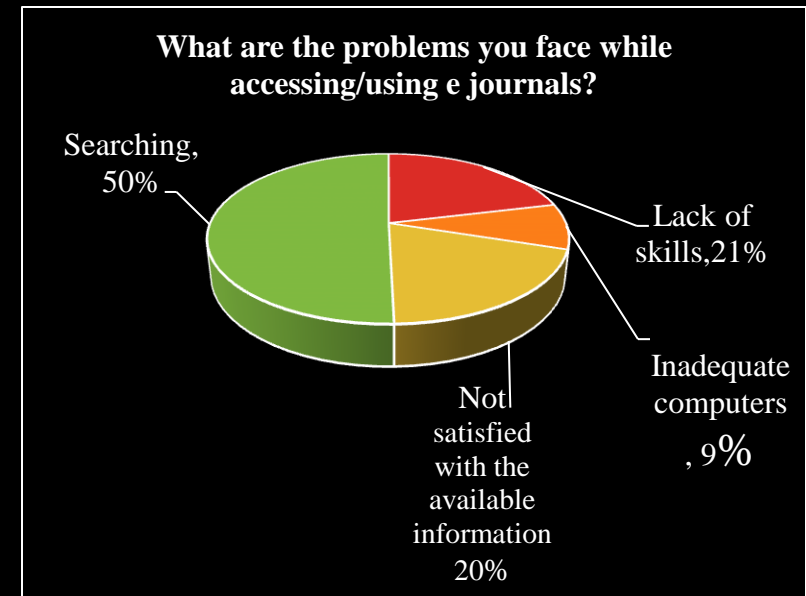


Figure 8: Respondents face problems while accessing/using e journals

Figure 8 shows that 64 (50%) of the respondents prefer searching; 27 (21%) of the respondents prefer lack of skills; 25 (20%) of the respondents are not satisfied with the available of information and 11 (9%) of the respondents prefer inadequate computers problems facing, while they are accessing/ using of E-journals.

C. USAGE ASPECTS

Data analysis pertaining to usage aspects has been explained to following:

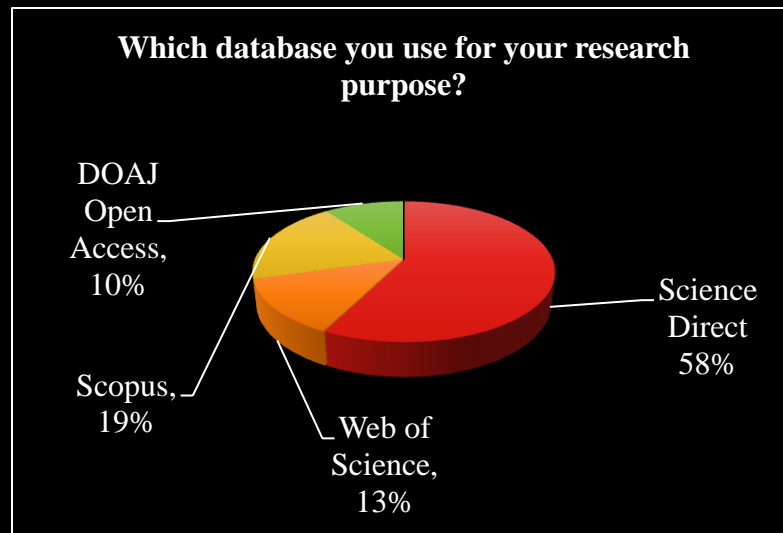


Figure 9: Indicating the Purpose of using e-journal by the respondents

Figure 9 represents that 119(58%) of the respondents are using Science Direct, 40(19%) of the respondents are using Scopus, 27 (13%) of the respondents are using Web of Science and very few 21 (10%) of the respondents are using DOAJ Open Access for their research purpose.

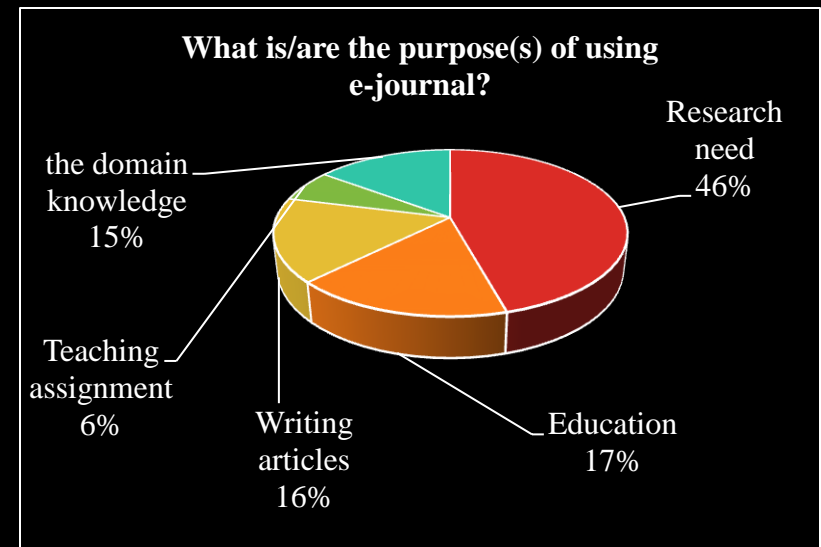


Figure 10: Database use by the respondents

Figure 10 represents that 132(46%) of the respondents are say research need, 49(17%) of the respondents are say education, 47(16%) of the respondents are say for writing article, 43(15%) of the respondents are say updating knowledge and very few 18(6%) of the respondents are say teaching assignment Purpose they are of using e-journal.

FINDINGS

- 80% of the respondents have good awareness level of online scientific e- journals therefore; research scholars are regular user of e- journals.
- The respondents of the study came from heterogeneous group belonging to different departments. The majority of the scholars pursuing Ph.D.i.e.73% and 27% belongs to M.Tech(R)
- More than 70% of the respondents have good knowledge of online databases, and they also subscribed from the Central library (BPCL).
- The study also found that the most 72% of the respondents they are not participating in regular User Education program conducted by the library.
- 40% of the respondents are accessing e-journals from their respective department, 26% of the respondents access from hostels; 19% of the respondents using Central library and remaining15% of the respondents using Computer Centre/Lab for accessing e-journals

CONT...

- Almost 50% of the respondents prefer online medium; 39% of the respondents are prefer both Hard copy and soft copy whereas 11% of the respondents prefer only hard copy to access/read e-journals.
- **This study also shows that 58% of the respondents are using Science Direct; 19%are using Scopus; 13%are using Web of Science and very few 10% of the respondents are using DOAJ Open Access for their research purpose.**
- Purpose of using e-journals: Users access e-journals for different needs i.e.46% of the respondents uses for research need; 17%uses for education; 16%uses for writing article; 15%uses for updating their domain knowledge and very few 6% of the respondents uses for teaching assignment purpose.
- **The study found that the most 45% of the respondents are using internet, 28%of the respondents are using library website, 15% of the respondents are using Mails by library staff and very few 12% of the respondents are using their colleagues help to getting information of e- journal.**
- Some of the non-English journal likes chines journals are not understandable. So, library should be subscribe these journals in English language.

SOLUTIONS

- ❖ Below are the probable solutions to overcome the problems analysed in this study:
 - Even though awareness about e-journals is 80%, but 72% of the respondents are not attending the regular User education programme (UEP). So study recommends scholars to attend the user education programme on regular basis conducted by library for more benefits.
 - Organisation in association with library needs to make some mandatory steps for all users to undergo UEP on regular basis to enhance its usage.
 - Some respondents told that slow internet speed while downloading e-journals, so organisation needs to take some positive steps to solve this technical problem.

CONCLUSION

- The study was conducted among the research scholars of NIT Rourkela. Based on this study, it was observed that e-journals have great impact on the research scholars for their research work.
- The present survey also provides there are scope for developing the required information skills in accessing e-journals. Participation in User education programme and orientation to all library resources will greatly enhance the use of e-journals resources and imparting ethics of research.
- The further research should not be limited to a single Institute or University; rather it should be conducted on larger geographical and demographic among many Universities with wide scope of e-resources.



THANKS!
ANY QUESTION