

Reading Habits of Electronic periodicals among Engineering Students in Ranga Reddy District: A Study

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ABSTRACT

This study attempts to know the students opinion, perception and usage of electronic periodicals in select engineering college students of Rangareddy District in Telangana state. This study attempts to find out preference and usage of electronic periodicals by the engineering college students. The data collected through questionnaire method for this study. This study provides few suggestions for effective usage of electronic periodicals among engineering college students.

Keywords: Perception, Academic Library, Electronic periodicals, E-resources, Engineering colleges, Usage Study, User Survey

1. INTRODUCTION

The electronic sources of information are becoming more and more important for the academic community for their teaching and research. Electronic journals have revolution the scholarly and scientific communication since their inception in the late 1980s. The exponential growths of Electronic periodicals over the last five years were popular among scientific information providers, publishers, libraries and information centers. Current developments in Electronic periodicals and their institutional licensing and subscriptions arrangements clearly indicate a rapid revolution.

The libraries first began tracking electronic journals in 1991 and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) published its first directory of electronic journals, which indicated that only seven of 110 online journals and newsletters were peer-reviewed titles [1]. By 2000, the number of refereed electronic journals had dramatically increased to over 4,000. During this decade it can be seen that libraries and information centers are transitioning into hybrid journal collections from traditional print journal collections. The result of hybrid journal collections

provides access to either as print-only, or electronic-only, or in both print and electronic formats. Further it facilitates to access to select journals, full text journal articles from aggregator databases.

The users of Electronic periodicals, especially academic libraries, are more concerned about the means and methods in handling with those publications because it necessitates at most care in subscribe to these scholarly journals. This situation has given rising to study how the users utilize the Electronic periodicals.

2. ELECTRONIC PERIODICALS

Periodicals are publications that come out on a regular schedule. They include different types of magazines, journals, trade publications and newspapers. Periodical articles are often the best sources for academic communities for their teaching and research, especially if it requires primary sources, recent information, or detailed information. Information appearing in periodicals constitutes the bulk of published information and unlike a majority of the information on free websites; the information in periodicals has been reviewed by peers or by another evaluation process. There are five main categories of periodicals: 1) scholarly journals, 2) trade/professional journals, 3) general interest/news publications, 4) popular magazines, and 5) sensational magazines. The format of periodicals can be hardcopy or electronic. Electronic periodicals can be ones that are only published electronically and ones in proprietary databases that appeared originally in hardcopy

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Edward William Dolch's 1951 book *Psychology and Teaching of Reading*; reading was defined as "imagining, thinking and feeling about ideas and thoughts made from past experiences that are suggested by perception of printed words" (p.9).

On the other hand, Aikat (2007) stated that "the act of reading is a dynamic 'transaction' between the reader and the text" (p.700), an idea taken from Louise M. Rosenblatt's 1978 book, *The Reader, the Text, The Poem*. According to the aforementioned book, there are two kinds of reading—reading for leisure, called Aesthetic Reading, and Efferent Reading in order to gain information. Efferent readers read for the purpose of the facts they will learn, while aesthetic readers read for the reading experience, making it easier for them to "connect emotionally" to the text. In order for readers to attain this connection and fully comprehend the text they read, Dolch (1951) asserted that the process of reading requires the different capabilities of the mind, as the reader processes words and their meanings. According to Aikat(2007), past research has shown a positive relationship between people's reading habits and their active involvement in other endeavors. Aikat also states that reading plays a very important role in enhancing the minds of young individuals, developing their "capacity for focused attention" as well as their growth" (p.699).

Okeke (2000) viewed the art of reading as a priceless instrument for everyone. His opined that reading is one of the most important activities in life, through which we enter into the life and experiences of others and extend our knowledge, scope of experience, and enjoyment. Reading is particularly important in education as well as for unhindered intellectual growth of a person.

Tella and Akande (2007) asserted that the ability to read is at the heart of self education and lifelong learning and that it is an art capable of transforming life and society. Shabi and Udofia (2009) noted that active learning from books are better than passive learning. It has been identified by Watson (2005) this study explained on the majority of libraries are migrating to electronic format of Electronic periodicals from their print journal subscriptions. Rogers (2005) pointed out that there has been an increased use of Electronic periodicals than that of print journals among faculty and graduate students at Ohio State University. Raza and Upadhyay (2006) in their study state that Aligarh Muslim University researchers are satisfied with e-journal available in the library related to their subject of research. Also many research scholars are consulting Electronic periodicals from their departments and computer centers. Their responses said that Electronic periodicals not only for research purposes but also to update their own knowledge. Liu (2006) pointed out that electronic sources are more heavily used by students of Computer Science Schools, Business Schools and LIS than those in Social Sciences. Researchers spend less time for reading per article.

There is a strong correlation between the print and electronic journals uses have been identified by Rowland's (2006). Further he points out that researchers are spending less time in retrieving their requirements in electronic formats, which indicates that the researchers are technically proficient in searching and employing a range of coping strategies to navigate e-resources.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are to find out the readers opinion on reading habits of the Electronic periodicals in the Self-financing and government engineering colleges. The main objectives of the study are:

1. To study the demographic profile of engineering students and identify the preferred electronic periodicals readers.
2. To Study frequency of electronic periodicals access and time spent.
3. To identify the electronic periodicals readers habit and purpose of reading.
4. To examine the level of satisfaction of electronic periodicals readers.

5. METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire has been administrated to the UG Students of engineering colleges under study in order to examine the opinion on use of Electronic periodicals by the users. This study attempts to find out the familiarity, preference and utility of Electronic periodicals by the users of engineering colleges. Among the 400 questionnaires circulated among the engineering colleges in Rangareddy District 383 responses (95.75%) were received.

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The data thus collected have been further analyzed.

Table 1 User Preferred Form of Journals

Preferred form	Respondents	Percentage
Print	70	25.06 %
Electronic only	64	22.98 %
Both equally	145	51.96 %
Total	279	100.00 %

Source: Primary Data

From the Table 1, it can be seen that 145 respondents (51.96%) preferred both print and electronic version equally where as 64 (22.98%) preferred electronic journals. Altogether only 70 (25.06%) of respondents preferred print journals. These 209 readers view alone further taken up for the study. Therefore the 'n' value is taken as 209 for the remaining part of the study. Further frequency of reading of Electronic periodicals among the e-journal users (i.e. n=209) have been identified and the same is shown in Table 2.

The Demographic characteristics of respondents are shown in Table 2. The majority of the respondents were male (69%) compared to female. Majority respondents for the both gender belongs to the age of 19 years are 83 (39.72%), and it followed by 20 years age is 78 (37.28%). The reader preferences of electronic journals have been analyzed and the same is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2 DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

FACTORS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
GENDER		
MALE	144	69
FEMALE	65	31
TOTAL	209	100
AGE		
18	39	18.82
19	83	39.72
20	78	37.28
21	9	04.18
TOTAL	209	100

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 3 FREQUENCY OF READ OF ELECTRONIC PERIODICALS

Frequency	Respondents	Percentage
Daily	30	14.35
Once in a Week	80	38.28
Once in a Fortnight	35	16.75
Once in a Month	23	11.00
Rarely	41	19.62
Total	209	100

Source: Primary Data

The frequency of read of Electronic periodicals, 38.28 % of the respondents read Electronic periodicals once in a week only 19.62 % of the respondents read Electronic periodicals rarely. Average time spend by the readers in a day on Electronic periodicals has been identified and the same is show in Table 4. Nearly 62.68% of the respondents spent more than one hour on use of Electronic periodicals. On an average one hour has been spent by the users on a day.

TABLE4: AVERAGE TIME SPENT BY THE READERS ON USE OF ELECTRONIC PERIODICALS

Frequency	Respondents	Percentage
One hour	78	37.32
Between 1 to 2 hour	62	29.66
Between2 to 3 hour	48	22.96
Above 3 hour	21	10.06
Total	209	100

TABLE 5: PREFERRED READING TIME

Preferred time	Male		female		Total	
Morning	38	18.19	9	4.3	47	22.49
Evening	43	20.57	41	19.6	84	40.17
Afternoon	12	5.74	4	1.92	16	7.66
Late night	47	22.48	15	7.2	62	29.68
Total	140	66.98	69	33.02	209	100

It is an evident from table 5 that the students mostly preferred to read in the evening (40.17%) compared to late night 29.68%) and morning (22.49%). The gender analysis shows evening as the favorite time for reading by both categories. However, male students (22.48%) prefer reading during late night than females (7.2%) whereas males (18.19%) prefer to read in morning more than female counterparts 4.3%).

Purposes of reading Table 7 shows those students read Electronic periodicals not only to prepare for exams or acquire knowledge but also for a number of other reasons. The largest number of respondents (146, 69.86%) indicated that they read mostly for their Academics. This was followed by “Project related” (134, 64.11%) and Employment related to get a job” (126, 60.29%). The Academic purpose 69.86% of the respondents read mostly Electronic periodicals for preparing their course and faculties (36.36%) read mostly and study enough time in Research articles and (64.11%) preparing Projects, for Writing Articles, to update knowledge. The aware of reading habits were created among different methods.

TABLE 6 :THE E-JOURNAL READERS HABIT AND PURPOSE OF READING

Purpose	frequently		infrequently		Not	Total		
Academic related	146	69.86	35	16.75	28	13.40	209	100
Teaching related	69	33.01	80	38.28	60	28.71	209	100
Employment related	126	60.29	68	32.54	15	7.18	209	100
Project related	134	64.11	71	33.97	4	1.91	209	100
Article writing related	92	44.02	93	44.50	24	11.48	209	100
Examination related	80	38.28	125	59.81	4	1.91	209	100
Fun related	34	16.27	32	15.31	143	68.42	209	100
Life skills related	124	59.33	74	35.41	11	5.26	209	100
R&D related	76	36.36	129	61.72	4	1.91	209	100
Enhance knowledge	64	30.62	109	52.15	36	17.22	209	100
others	19	9.09	36	17.22	154	73.68	209	100

TABLE 7: OPINION REGARDING READERS SATISFACTION ON E-JOURNAL

Satisfaction level	Male		female		total	
Excellent	74	35.41	28	13.40	102	48.80
Good	38	18.18	22	10.53	60	28.71
Moderate	18	8.61	12	5.74	30	14.35
No opinion	14	6.70	3	1.44	17	8.13
Total	144	68.90	65	31.10	209	100

Source: primary data

Attempts were made to know the satisfaction level of the users of Electronic periodicals. The responses received from the students are presented in this Table 8. The overall satisfaction of the readers of Electronic periodicals is excellent 102(48.80%). Few respondents feel no opinion of impression.

7. FINDINGS

The followings are major findings of the present survey:

- 38.36% respondents read Electronic periodicals once in a week.
- 37.32% of users spent more than one hour on use of Electronic periodicals.
- 69.86% of respondents use the Electronic periodicals is regard to related to course
- The overall satisfaction of the read of Electronic periodicals (48.80%) is Excellent. Few respondents feel no opinion of impression.

8. CONCLUSION

Most of the users prefer both electronic periodicals and print sources. Academic communities particularly youngsters mostly prefer electronic sources. Despite of many problems most of the students prefer electronic sources because of updated information and quick accessibility, most of the student users are well satisfied with electronic periodicals as it is inexpensive when compared to print sources. It is necessary to educate student about electronic periodicals usage and accessibility, it is also necessary to examine students usage statistics for further improvement of quality and accessibility of electronic periodicals. Learning will not takes place without reading both are not separate. The reading habits of youngster are declining therefore it is necessary to inculcate reading habits among youngsters by finding innovative ways to attract them for their overall development.

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