

# Usage of E-Journals at B.S.Abdur Rahman University, Tamil Nadu: A Study

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**Abstract** - The study is to find out the usage of online journals by staff, students and research scholars of B.S.Abdur Rahman University. The main aim of the study is to find out how the online journals are being used since the institution is spending more money to subscribe online journals. The study also reveals the preference of online journals among the user community.

**Keyword:** E-Journal, B.S.Abdur Rahman University

## I. INTRODUCTION

Academic and research activities are extensively depend on scholarly publications particularly the journals. E-Journals have become the major resource in intellectual study in any field. It has been considered a central node for modern library systems. The revolution in ICT made tremendous changes in all walks of life predominantly in publishing industry. It has brought radical changes in information gathering, storage, organization, delivery and access. The above process of information is made in digital form and it has given user friendly approach, hence the library users are mostly depending on e-resources. Also remote access of online resources is another technological revolution gave the freedom to users to access at their convenient time.

### A. B.S. Abdur Rahman University, Chennai

B.S Abdur Rahman University is an institution acclaimed for its quality in teaching and research. Being one of the largest engineering institutions in India, it lays emphasis on innovative research, investment in high-quality facilities and first-rate infrastructure. By making use of the latest technologies and quality teaching, the college

is able to offer a wide choice of interdisciplinary degrees in engineering which has enabled students to gain accolades in the global level. This has been upgraded to university status with a view to keep academic in pace with development in industry. Modern hostel facilities are available for men and women students separately within the University campus

### B. Central Library

The Central Library of B.S.Abdur Rahman University has huge collections in the field of Science, Engineering and Technology, Management and Humanities. The library functions 12 hours in a day and during Saturdays and Sundays also the library is opened. The library is a member of Delnet, Malibnet, British Council, Anna University and American Consulate.

The central library of this university is a member in INDEST Consortium and subscribing online journals such as ACM, ASCE, ASME, IEEE, ELSEVIER, EMERALD and SPRINGER publications.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To understand the usage of online journals.
2. To find out which journal is widely being used.
3. To find out which journal has less popular among the users.
4. To reveal which user community has mostly depend on online journals.

### III. METHODOLOGY

Methodology plays an important role to carry out systematic research in any field. It includes proper adaptation of research design, standardized tools for data analysis and so on. The author has used questionnaire, interview and observation methods for this study. The study has been conducted by means of comparative analysis of usage of online journals at B.S. Abdur Rahman University. A questionnaire was framed to find out the results and it has been distributed to all the Staff, Research scholars and Post Graduate Students who are mainly use online journals for their academic and research purpose. Also usage statistics of e-journals have been consulted for this study though it gives the overall statistics.

The study was limited with staff, research scholars and post graduate students of B.S. Abdur Rahman University. The above category of library users are commonly used e-journals for their academic and research purpose hence they have selected for the study.

### IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

Cherifa BoukacemZ and Joachim Schopfel investigated about the usage of e-journals in 68 French Universities and they revealed that the growth rate has been tremendously increased in reference with the usage of online journals. The research scholars of Science and Humanities are widely used online journals compared with other area of research scholars and they mostly seek information from Elsevier journals followed by ACS and Wiley.

Jeff Brown pointed out that the e-journals usage is increasing at Loughborough University, the academic community of this university seeks information not only from current journals but also from back volumes and demand is increasing to subscribe more number of online journals. The library users of this university seek information mostly from e-journals, they refer printed volumes only for the non-availability of e-journal.

M. Masoom Raja and Ashok Kumar Upadhyay stating that the research scholars of Aligarh Muslim University aware of e-Journals though they need proper training on how to use online journals. They further reveal that the research scholars are use online journals not only in the

library but also from their department labs, hostels, etc. and they refer e-journals to know personal and latest trends in their field apart from research. Research scholars of this university seek information not only from e-journals but also from print journals.

Margam Madhusudhanan pointed out that the e-journals play an important for the research activities of the scholars and they seek back volumes of the journals for above purpose apart from current issues. They also exposed that the students and research scholars of library & information science department required more number of online journals in their subject. From their study, that the students and research scholars are commonly feel that proper training on how to use e-journals to be given for effective utilization.

### V. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

TABLE I LIBRARY USERS IN TERMS OF E-JOURNALS ACCESS

User group	Usage period			
	Daily	Once in two days	Weekly	Fortnightly
Staff	40	56	4	
Research scholars	72	28		
Students	12	32	48	8

The above table shows that 72% of research scholars are accessing e-journals for their research. But the students are referring e-Journals in a day with less (12%) percentage, at the same time they are the dominant users (48%) as far as weekly access is concern. Because of the nature of work, almost all the research scholars are consulting e-journals once in two days, it clearly shows that the research scholars are mostly depended users community who needs e-journals for their research purpose.

TABLE II PERIOD OF E-JOURNALS ACCESS

User group	Usage Period		
	University Working Hours	After Working Hours	Weekends
Staff	10	79	11
Research Scholars	87	11	1
Students	40	48	12

The above table reveals that most of the research scholars are accessing the e-journals during the working hours of the University. It because of their primary job is to carry out their research, hence they are utilizing online journals during working hours. At the same time, staff can't find

time to access the e-journals during working hours because they have other job to focus on. Interesting to note that 40% of post graduate students accessing online journals during

working hours of the university, where as 79% of staff could access online journals after working hours and 11% of staff are accessing e-journals during week end.

TABLE III USAGE OF E-JOURNALS

User group	e-Journals						
	ACM	ASCE	ASME	IEEE	ELSEVIER	EMERALD	SPRINGER
Staff	75	12	28	178	77	20	68
Research Scholars	19	8	26	99	80	12	25
Students	8	4	9	52	9	10	8

The above table clearly shows that most of the staff are accessing e-journals, it because, most of the staff member at this university are doing their research. It again reveals that IEEE has dominating other online journals; staff, research

scholars and students are mostly accessing IEEE online journals for their academic and research activities. Elsevier journals come as second preferred journals followed by ACM and Springer journals.

TABLE IV REASON FOR ACCESSING E-JOURNALS

User group	Usage Period				
	Academic purpose	Research purpose	Academic & Research purpose	Project purpose	Other reasons
Staff	6	10	82	2	
Research Scholars		90	10		
Students	8			92	

The above table indicates that none of the library users are accessing online journals for 'other reasons', they all have a clear vision for accessing e-journals at this university, which is very interesting to point out. 82% of Staff are accessing online journals for their academic and research purpose it because most of the staff members are doing research work hence they are accessing online journals for both purpose. Whereas 90% of research scholars utilizing online journal for research purpose, 10% of them are accessing online journals for both academic and research purpose. Most of the students (92%) are referring online journals for preparing their semester related project and 8% of them are accessing e-journals for academic purpose too.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The central library of B.S.Abdur Rahman University is subscribe to a large number of e-resources and it is important to study about the usage of online resources for which the amount has been spending. The study shows that usage of e-journals at this University is fairly well, most of the research scholars are using e-journals atleast once in a day and the staff and student community are spending good time to access e-journals for their academic and research purpose.

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