# Use of E-journals by Post Graduate Students at Government First Grade College at Kolar, Karnataka

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*Abstract -* **Journals constitute an important part of a library collection being the most important vehicle for global scholarly communication. Tremendous developments in ICT in the recent years have given amazing boost to electronic publishing. As a result the information which is being generated at intense pace from all the directions world-wide for all the themes is now being published in form of electronic journals (e-journals). Anyone with access to a computer equipped with a modem and suitable software can produce and distribute an e-journal through a computer network, thus journal publishing is being democratized. Usually, e-journals are published as electronic equivalents of their print counterparts but recently there is an increase in number of scholarly journals which are being published only electronically. As a result, e-journals have emerged as vital components of information resources of a library and play an imperative role in the distribution of prime information. E-journals have been defined in different ways by different authors.**
*Keywords:* **E-journals, postgraduate students, government First Grade colleges, electronic resources**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the study this paper is to find out the level of awareness and use of e-journals by post graduate students of gfgc kolar. The current status and accessibility of e-journals by postgraduate students; The level of awareness and knowledge regarding e-journals among postgraduate students; The competence and ease of usage of e-journals by postgraduate students; The frequency of usage of e-journals by postgraduate students.

## II. METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire and Interviews with some students and selected individuals at the institution were also conducted to gather the data for this study covering four broad areas of e-journal use:

a. Frequency of use of journals
b. Barriers to e-journal use
c. Training needs.
d. Locating e-journals

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Postgraduate students most commonly use e-journals in their departments with 84% viewing them either daily or weekly. Off campus is also popular with 48% accessing e-journals at least weekly. Unsurprisingly, all students use the Library infrequently to access e-journals with only 2% doing so daily and indeed 49% never use the Library for this purpose.

TABLE I FREQUENCY OF USE

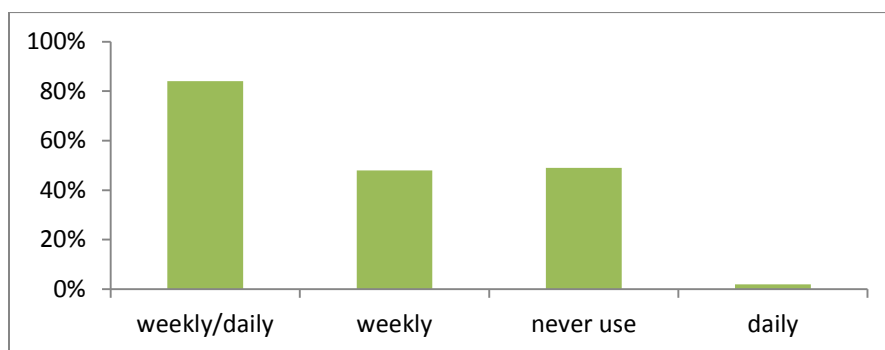| Frequency of use | |
|---|---|
| weekly/daily | 84% |
| weekly | 48% |
| never use | 49% |
| daily | 2% |



Fig.1 Frequency of Use

All barriers are encountered occasionally. The main barrier to access of e-journals is the lack of journal subscriptions with 60% of respondents often encountering this problem.

Other barriers are e-journals which are only available on campus often affecting 23% of respondents, passwords often affecting 18% and interfaces (16%).

TABLE II FREQUENCY OF USE

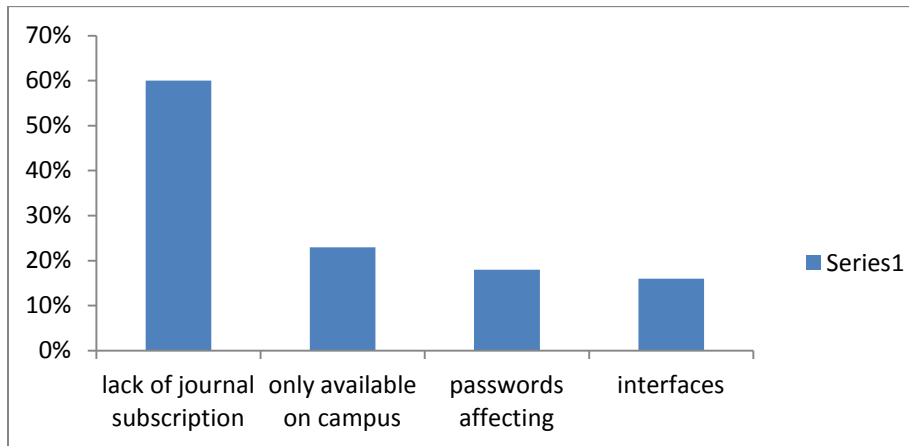| Barriers To E-Journal Use | |
|---|---|
| lack of journal subscription | 60% |
| only available on campus | 23% |
| passwords affecting | 18% |
| interfaces | 16% |



Fig.2 Barriers to e-journals

There is a modest need for training. Some respondents indicated that they would appreciate training in managing e-journals references (48%) and locating full text from references (40%) and 50% wanting training in locating full text from references. Across the 50 students only 30% wanted training in using e-journals for current awareness and on retrieving e-journal references.

TABLE III TRAINING NEEDS

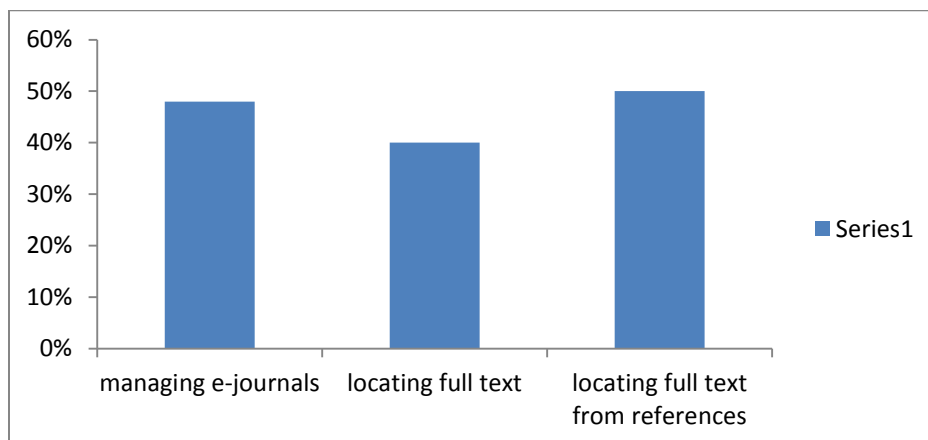| Training needs. | |
|---|---|
| managing e-journals | 48% |
| locating full text | 40% |
| locating full text from references | 50% |



Fig.3 Training needs

The results show students use a wide range of approaches to locate references. Overall the most popular source of ejournals is freely available search engines (54% of respondents often use 8 these to retrieve e-journals), closely followed by commercial databases (50%), publishers web sites (44%). MetaLib is used often by 32% and e-journal sites are bookmarked by 31%.

TABLE IV LOCATING E-JOURNALS

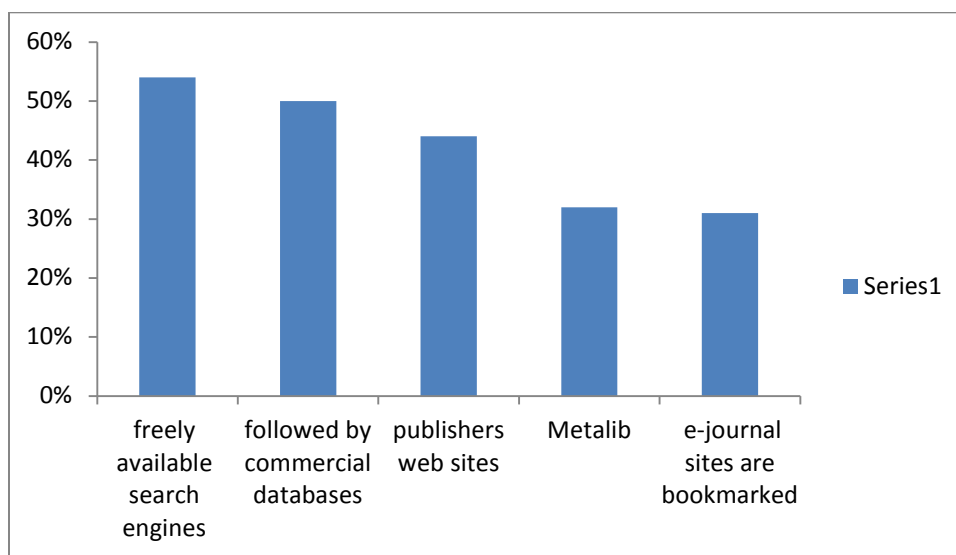| Locating  e-journals | |
|---|---|
| freely available search engines | 54% |
| followed by commercial databases | 50% |
| publishers web sites | 44% |
| Metalib | 32% |
| e-journal sites are bookmarked | 31% |
| | |



Fig.4 Locating e-journals

## IV.FINDINGS

The findings of the study show that postgraduate students at Government First grade College, kolar are aware of the existence of e-journals, but the optimal use of these resources is hampered by limited access to some e-journals due to lack of informations searching skills, limited space, low bandwidth and erratic power supply. It is, therefore, recommended that the institution should provide adequate space, enough power supply and should address some of the issues hindering equitable access to these resources. The development of an institutional repository and the use of open access resources will also improve access to scientific and electronic information by postgraduate students at the institution.

## V. SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings, the focus of the study has been laid on efficient use of electronic resources among the faculty members and Post graduate students in the government first grade college at kolar, karnataka.

In order to improve and maximize the optimum usage of scholarly electronic journals by postgraduate students at the institution, the study recommends the following: The institution should employ proactive marketing strategies such as the newsletters, posters, workshops/training, website; conduct training on the use of scholarly electronic journals databases and subscribe to relevant scholarly electronic journals.

## VI. CONCLUSION

E-journals are now accepted means of information source and academic libraries are making great efforts to procure them and enhance the value of their collections. Present study reveals the usage of e-journals in terms of awareness, necessary skills and availability of infrastructure for their effective utilization, with a few constraints reported by the user. Present scenario is watching a shift towards e-journals

though the pace is quite slow. The slow pace of usage of e-journals is because of some hindrances faced by users while accessing them. The users are gradually getting used to journals which are available in electronic format. Major advantages reported are searching potential, speed of publication, Hyperlinks to references, e-mail alerts, graphic capabilities, and access to back volumes. Major challenges reported are lack of both awareness and proper training among the library users and lack of proper infrastructure for accessing e-journals. Although libraries are trying hard to meet the challenges posed by the e-journals but it will be difficult to overcome every barrier in a short time yet the researcher put forth some suggestions on the basis of above findings that should be given serious consideration to enhance the use of information available in electronic form.

Thus e-journals can be accessed round the clock across geographical barriers, which make e-journals omnipresent. The most fortunate thing about e-journals is that both libraries and users can conquer the problems of missing issues and delay in receiving the issues. To summarize, it can be clearly said that e-journals are truly a dream come true both for the librarians and users. Consequently libraries are now persuaded to subscribe to e-journals from a vast variety of publishers and providers.

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