

Awareness and Use of Open Access Journals by the Master of Education Students in Salem Zone, Tamil Nadu

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(Received 29 December 2018; Revised 16 January 2019; Accepted 26 January 2019; Available online 7 February 2019)

Abstract - This study is an attempt to observe the awareness and use of open access journals by the Master of Education students in Salem Zone (Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Namakkal). Open access resources promote the global knowledge flow for the benefit of the research scholars. Structured questionnaire was distributed among the Master of Education (M.Ed) Students of various disciplines. The study reveals that the P.G students are aware of open access resources and various types of open access journals which are freely accessible through internet. Most of the respondents agreed that open access journals are very much useful and are of high quality. Some recommendations have also been suggested.

Keywords: Open Access, Open Access Journals, M.Ed Students

I. INTRODUCTION

Open access (OA) journals are scholarly journals that are available online to the reader without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to internet itself. Open access means something that is free .BOAI, (2002).However it is not only free but also available through online and in unrestricted manner, Brody(2006). In other words, when research literature, like peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, technical reports, working decades, scientific journal publishing have undergone a veritable revolution. Today the predominating mode is to download a digital copy and either read it directly off the screen or as a printout.

A. Open Access Journals

Open Access journals are e-journals that are freely available and provide access to full-text contains of scholarly peer-reviewed journals (Emojorho, Ivwighreghweta & Onoriode, 2012).There are two types of Open Access journals, the one available in electronic version only Bethesda Statement (2003) and the other, available in both electronic as well as print versions viz, current science.

In the first type, the journals are published in regular intervals on the internet that do not have any print-on-paper counterpart. In the second type, the journals are published in print-on-paper format and distributed to the subscribers. The same contents of print-on-paper are available to the scholars free of changing in electronic form.

II. NEED FOR SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Electronic access to books and journals has become an important and valuable tool for students and staff members. The users familiar with electronic information have started it. This study is an effort to know whether the master of Education students in Salem Zone are aware of open access journals if yes, how far they are getting benefitted from it and are feeling comfortable and at ease in accessing it.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the awareness about free and Open Access journals among the Master of Education students (M.Ed) of Salem Zone.
2. To find out the frequency of using Open Access journals.
3. To find out usefulness of the Open Access journals among respondents.
4. To find out the satisfaction level of using Open Access journals.
5. To examine the problems faced while using Open Access journals.

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

There are many studies which have been carried out awareness and how to access journals. Bartle &Walton (2001) argue that many researchers are still unaware about the use of open Access Journals. One of the main reasons for this is they don't know the availability and the services that are provided for them.Alike investigation by the University of Hong Kong library (Korobili,Tilikidou & Delistarou, 2005) shows that 68.8 percent of researchers prefer to use open Access Journals and 31.2 percent researchers prefer printed journals.The studies of Ntiamoah-Baidu (2008) and Okoye & Ejikeme (2010) in journals are still less and accountable for the low use should be taken to researchers knowledge.

The study by Christian (2008) shows that out of 66 respondents,only 3 percent at the University of Lagos are aware of the open access concept,22.7 percent of respondents know very little about it and 74 percent of respondents are totally unaware of the open access concept .

Another study involving 27 Universities in Canada reveals that only 66 percent of respondents are familiar with the open access concept (Greyson *et al.*, 2009).

V. METHODOLOGY

A structured Questionnaire was designed and randomly distributed to the Master of Education students in Salem Zone(Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Namakkal) and the study covered over 26 colleges of M.Ed students. Copies of questionnaire were distributed to 200 students and they responded well. The collected datas were tabulated.

A. Limitation

It is only the evaluative study about the usage and awareness of Open Access resources by the Master of Education (M.Ed) students in Salem Zone.

VI. DATA ANALYSIS

TABLE I AWARENESS ABOUT OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Awareness of OA Journals	No.of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	146	78.91
No	39	21.08
Total	185	99.99

Table I Clearly indicates that the awareness about the open access journals by the respondents. Majority of the M. Ed students i.e 78.91 % are aware of the open access journals and 21.08 % of them are not aware of Open Access journals.

TABLE II PREFERENCE IN USING OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS VS PRINTED JOURNALS

Preference	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Open Access journals	132	71.35
Subscribed journals in the library	53.	28.64
Total	185	99.99

Table II clearly shows that most of respondents 71.35 % preferred using open access journals and 28.64 % of them preferred using subscribed journals in the library.

TABLE III PLACE OF ACCESSING OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Place of accessing Open Access journals	No of Respondents	Percentage
Library	90	48.64
Department	19	10.27
At home	76	41.08
Inter net center	0	00.0
Total	185	99.99

Table III clearly indicates that most of the respondents 48.64 % uses open access journals in the library and 41.08 % of them access at home and only 10.27 % of the access from their department. No one has used Internet Center for accessing open access journals.

TABLE IV FREQUENCY OF USING OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Using of Open Access Journals	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Daily	30	16.21
4-6 times in week	45	24.32
1-4 times in week	73	39.45
Weekly	37	20.00
Total	185	99.98

Table IV shows the frequency of using open access journals by the respondents. Majority of the research scholars i.e.39.45 % uses open access journals 1-4 times in a week, 24.32% of them uses 4-6 times in a week, 20.00 % of them use in a week, 16.21 % of them use daily in a week.

TABLE V DIRECTORIES USED TO ACCESS OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Resources	No.of Respondents	Percentage
DOAJ	95	51.35
Worldwide science org	16	8.64
Publisher website	74	40.00
Total	185	99.98

Table V shows that 51.35 % of respondents uses DOJA for accessing Open Accessing journals. 40.00 % of them uses publishers web sites and 8.64 % of them uses worldwide science.

TABLE VI PURPOSE OF USING OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
To Update Knowledge	12	6.48
For Research (Project Work)	120	64.86
For Study	12	6.48
For Presenting Papers Total	0	22.16
Total	185	99.98

Table VI Shows that 64.86% uses open access journal for research purpose for their project work,22.16% use them for presenting papers and 6.48% for study and to update their knowledge.

TABLE VII IMPORTANCE OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Importance	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Great Importance	124	66.26
Somewhat Importance	47	24.74
Less Importance	19	10
No Importance	0	0

Table VII Shows that 66.26% respondent replied that open access journals are important. 24.74% respondents replied that it is somewhat important. 10% of respondents replied that it is less important, and no one replied that it is not important at all.

TABLE VIII PROBLEMS IN USING OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Difficult in finding relevant information	88	47.56
Slow Internet Access	69	37.29
Overload of Information	115	62.16
Junk information	34	18.37
Download delay	153	82.70

Table VIII states that 82.70 % of the respondents felt that download delay is the main problem,62.16 % of the respondents felt finding relevant information is the main problem,37.29 % felt that slow internet access and 18.3% felt junk information is the main problem.

TABLE IX SATISFACTION LEVEL OF USING OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Satisfaction	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Excellent	90	48.64
Good	75	40.54
Satisfied	13	7.02
Not satisfied	7	3.78
Total	185	99.98

Table XI shows that 48.64 % of the respondents felt their satisfaction level of using open access resources are excellent.40.54 % of them felt good and7.02 % of the respondents felt satisfied, only 3.78 % of respondents felt dissatisfied.

VII. CONCLUSION

Open Access sources are one of the important components of Information and Communication Technology. User satisfaction is the ultimate goal of every library. Through

the open access journals, the student community gets benefited.The need for open access journals was enumerated. The use of open access journals gives the positive response. The need for open access journals was estimated. The open access journal gives the positive signs of the growth of IT world in the academic project. The library should provide facilities for the users to get familiar with e-journals subscribed by the library. The utilization of open access resources should be monitored. If the internet speed becomes fast, download delays can also be managed. If these problems are solved, then the status of using open access resources by M. Ed students will be very high.

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