

Full Length Research Paper

Use of periodicals in Engineering College Libraries under North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon

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Engineering college libraries attempt to meet the need of a diverse and complex group of users, who have wide ranging interest and complex sets of demands. Over the course of the last decade, very valuable resources of information have become available through the Internet and other electronic database, and libraries are currently playing role very different from that of before. Periodical serials are the bedrock of research activities. Periodicals are best source for up-to-date information in a particular field. They are publications which are issued at regular interval, such as journals, magazines and newspapers. They are also often referred to as serials. So researchers want to know the use, purpose and utilization of the periodicals by the users.

Key words: Periodical, engineering colleges, e-journals.

INTRODUCTION

Periodicals can have some advantages over books depending on the information needed. However, when using periodicals, it is important to understand the difference between scholarly and popular documents. They include journals, newspapers and magazines. Serials are very unique, contain current information and very useful for study, teaching, learning and research purpose. The introduction of electronic resources has continuing impact on library collection. The term serial is used in a broader term to refer to the periodically published documents such as periodicals, journals, magazines, bulletins, newsletters and research institutions, newspapers.

Periodicals constitute a considerable part of the holding of a library next to book, in any kind of library. A serial is considered to be a publication which is issued in successive part with numbering or chronological

designation and intended to be continued indefinitely (Mittra, 1988). The terms periodicals, journals or magazine tend to be used interchangeably but sometime distinctions are made among terms. Journals are received for scholarly and research oriented title, while magazine is considered to refer to more popular publication. These are very important documents mainly for two reasons: 1) contributions published in the periodicals convey the latest or update information on specific subject areas yet published and 2) the information or content of the periodicals publications may not be available in book (Khan, 1978; Gaur, 2003; Kumar, 1998).

Therefore, the periodicals articles and research papers in academic journals are distinct source of information or knowledge, whether published in current or back issues.

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Serials are documents with the following characteristics: a reasonably permanent title of some sort which may be changed from time to time, published usually at regular intervals and frequency of publication is declared by issuing body. The contents are usually different from issue to issue, but a contribution may be continued in more than one issue. Each issue of a serial must have the number of issue printed on it, which is a continuing number in relation to the immediate previous issue number and immediately following number.

AICTE norms for the library

Engineering Institute should have carefully selected books and periodicals. As per the AICTE norms at the beginning of the institute, 250 titles and 1000 volumes are essential, including 6 national and 6 International are also required.

E-journals are called by various names such as electronic journals, Internet based serials, online journals, e-serials and electronic serials. But the term 'e-journals' have become a standard name for calling electronic journals, as these are available electronically via a computer or a computer network. The advantage of the electronic resources is that many users can simultaneous access a single electronic copy from many locations.

Objective of the study

- 1) To identify the purpose and utilization of periodicals by faculty members.
- 2) To know the frequency of use of e-Journals/E-resources by faculty members.
- 3) To prepare a union catalogue of periodicals for the benefit of users.

Hypothesis

- 1) The collection of periodicals in engineering colleges is based on AICTE norms.
- 2) The faculties members see the use and advantage of the periodicals as quite satisfactory.
- 3) The users need training for handling the electronic resources
- 4) Union Catalogue of periodicals is not available.

Scope of the study

The study covers the users of engineering colleges under North Maharashtra University during 2009 to 2010. There are a total of 13 engineering colleges under North Maharashtra University. Under these engineering colleges total faculty members were 1150 from different courses. The population is large so the researcher selected only H.O.D

and one senior faculty member from each course/branch. A total number of 126 questionnaires are distributed to faculty members, out of which 90 questionnaires are received.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The survey method is used for this study. Questionnaire technique is used to collect the relevant data from the faculty members of engineering colleges under North Maharashtra University.

Sampling method

Stratified sampling is used for this study.

Central Library, North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon

Central library was established during 1991 to 1992. Central Library has 52,744 collection of books, 142 print Journals and also available are e-journal exam, IEEE, ASME, ASCE etc.

The library provides the following services: access to online journals under UGC-InfliBnet program, home lending services, reprography, reading room, internet searching, reference service, inter library loan services etc (Krishan, 1987, Lazinger et al. 1998).

ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

Questionnaires were distributed to the faculty members of engineering colleges under North Maharashtra University. 126 questionnaires were distributed to the H.O.D. and one senior member of each branch of 13 engineering colleges. Out of this, only 90 questionnaires were received from the respondents. Two colleges did not respond. The percentage of respondent is 71.42%. The data collected are presented in appropriate tables and analysis is made along with observation.

In general information section the questionnaire provides information regarding gender, as seen in Table 1. It is shown in the table that 93.33% faculty members are males and only 6.33% of them are females, who can use periodicals available through library for different purposes.

Table 2 reveals that 20% of faculty members are in both mechanical and electronic communication branch; 17.77%, computer branch; 11.11%, civil branch; 10%, electrical IT; 7.77%, Eng. sci. and only 2% faculty members are from biotech branch.

Table 3 indicates that the majority of 81.1% faculty members have ME (Master in Engineering); 8.8% of them have Ph.D.; 5.5%, have Msc, followed by M.Tech. (2%) and BE (2%).

The designation wise distribution of respondents is shown in Table 4. 55.44% of respondents are H.O.D; 32.22%, Asst. professor; 11%, professor and 2%, lecturers.

Most of the respondents say that they select the periodicals using the subject teacher (58.88%), 34.40% respondents say that they select the periodicals by using periodical catalogue and 12% respondents say that they select the periodical by using the periodicals from other colleges, 44% respondents say that they get recommendation of librarian while selecting the periodicals (Table 5).

Table 6 reveals that, out of 90% respondents, 48.88% of faculty members use print journals once a week, 20% faculty members use journals daily, 20% faculty members use print journals occasionally. 32% respondents say that they use e-journals daily.

Question asked about the subscription of e-resources to the 11 engineering colleges, 3 of them do not subscribe to the e-resources.

Table 1. List of colleges under study.

Name of college	Department	Faculty members
Shri Sant Gage Baba College of Engineering	5	95
G.H. Raison Institute of Engineering, Jalgaon	5	80
J.T. Mahajan College of Engineering, Faizpur	5	105
K.C.E. College of Engineering, Jalgaon	3	55
Godavari College of Engineering, Jalgaon	5	75
Shri Gulabrao Deokar College of Engineering, Jalgaon	4	70
R.C. Patel College of Engineering, Shirpur.	4	90
D.N. Patil Institute of Technology, Shahada	7	120
Bambhori College of Engineering, Jalgaon	7	150
Government College of Engineering, Jalgaon	5	85
S.S.V.P.S College of Engineering, Dhule	6	110
Nagaon College of Engineering	3	60
Navalnager College of Engineering	4	55
Total	63	1150

Table 2. Gender of faculty members.

Gender	Number	Percentage (%)
Male	84	93.33
Female	6	6.66

Table 3. Qualification of faculty members.

Qualification	Respondent	Percentage (%)
Master of Engineering	73	81.11
ME, Ph.D	08	8.8
MSC	05	5.55
M.Tech.	02	2.22
B.E.	02	2.22
Extra qualification	24	26.6
Total	90	99.90

Table 4. Designation of faculty members.

Designation	Respondent	Percentage (%)
H.O.D.	49	54.44
Professor	10	11.11
Asst. Professor / Lecturer	31	34.44
Total	90	99.99

Table 9 shows that 46% faculty members have faced problem of lack of training while using e-journals, 23% faculty members faced lack of information on e-resources and 14% faculty members have faced lack of operating funds for using e-resources (Table 7).

The respondents were requested to indicate the success rate in finding the required information in periodicals (Table 9). Table 9 shows that, 55.55% of respondents succeeded in the range of 50 to 74, followed by 35%.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

After analysis of the data some findings are made and enumerated below:

i) From the aforementioned data analysis, it is found that majority of faculty members (48.88%) use print periodicals

Table 5. Selection of periodicals.

Selection of periodical	Respondent	Percentage (%)
Student demand	06	6.66
From subject teacher	53	58.88
From the catalogue of periodical	31	34.44
Seeing the periodical from other college	11	12.2
Librarian recommendation	40	44.44

Table 6. Frequency of using print journal/periodicals, E-Journals.

Frequency	Using E- journal	Percentage (%)	Using print journal respondent	Percentage (%)
Daily	29	32	18	20
2-3 times in a day	05	5.55	06	6.66
Once a week	36	40	44	48.88
Once a month	03	3	01	1.11
Occasionally	03	3	18	20
Never	14	15	14	15

Table 7. Purpose of using periodicals.

Purpose of using periodical	Respondent	Percentage (%)
For communication	02	2.22
For finding relevant information in my specialization	13	14.44
Update subject knowledge	55	61
Teaching purpose	72	80
For research purpose	04	4

once a week and only 20% of them use the print periodicals daily.

ii) It is found that most libraries select the periodicals through the subject teacher.

iii) Majority of faculty members (80%) use print periodicals for teaching purpose and 61% of them use the periodicals for updating the subject's knowledge and research purpose.

iv) Regarding the success rate of finding the required information in periodicals 55.55% of faculties rated that they have succeeded in the range of 50 to 74.

v) Using the e-journals 40% of faculty members use e-journals once a week and 32% of them use the e-journals daily.

vi) 46% of faculty members have faced lack of training as the main problem while accessing e-journals.

vii) 46.66% of faculty members download online journals in storage device for reading them later and 27.7% of them prefer to see the journals on computer screen.

viii) 78.87% faculty members consult the library staff members for their required information.

ix) It is found that out of the 11 engineering colleges, 3 of them do not subscribe to the e-journals.

x) It is observed from the survey that different types of

periodical collection are available.

xi) Faculty members use national and international journals for their reading purpose.

TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS

1) HO₁: From the observation of the study, it is concluded that different types of periodical collection are available in engineering colleges under North Maharashtra University.

2) HO₂: The faculty members see the use and advantage of periodicals as quite satisfactory.

a) Out of 90 respondents, 48.88% of faculty members use print journals once a week, while 20% of them use journals daily. In Table 8, it is observed that 40% faculty members access online journals once a week, while 32% of them access them daily

b) With the above discussion, it can be concluded that faculty members see the use of periodicals as quite satisfactory.

3) HO₃: The users are need of training for handling the electronic resources. Table 9 shows that 46% faculty members have faced problem of lack of training while using e-journals/electronic resources. The finding of the

Table 8. Problem faced while using e-journals.

Problem faced while using E-Journals	Respondent	Percentage (%)
Lack of training	42	46
Lack of information on electronic resources	21	23
Lack of operating funds	13	14

Table 9. Success rate of finding required information in periodicals.

Success rate of finding information in periodical (%)	Respondent	Percentage (%)
100	0	0
75-99	08	8.88
50-74	50	55.5
25-49	32	35.55
Less than 25	0	0

study indicates that faculty members are in need of skills for handling the e-resources.

4) HO₄: From the observation of the study, it is found that there is no union catalogue of periodicals available in engineering college libraries under NMU.

SUGGESTION

Based on the finding of the study the following suggestions are made

- 1) It is essential to create awareness among faculty members about the use of periodicals.
- 2) The librarian must conduct programmes for faculty members regarding the use of periodicals and electronic resources and also arrange information literacy programme for the users of library.
- 3) In order to improve the efficiency of the users towards access to periodicals/ journals the institute should provide hands on experience and conduct user orientation programmes.
- 4) There is need to include more numbers of online journals in various disciplines.
- 5) More funds should be given to subscribe the online journals in engineering colleges.
- 6) Resource sharing of periodicals among engineering college libraries under NMU is required.

Conclusion

Periodicals/journals play a vital role in the field of engineering. Print periodicals and online journals are most important for every engineering college as per AICTE norms. Lack of awareness, lack of training among faculty members and proper infrastructure in the library are major de-motivating factors in the use of periodicals. The speed of availability and easy accessibility to information makes the faculty members to use electronic resources more frequently.

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