Role Of E-Resources in Scholarly Communities for Research Activities: Special Reference to E-Journal

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 Abstract

The use of e-resources basically e-journal is a rising and vital trend for acquiring and disseminating the information for research works by the researchers. In the modern learning environment it is called e-learning environment. The demands of researcher are always new and current information. Their current, catching up and existing approach are purely fulfilled by the e-journals. In the cyber world the research scholar's right hand is e-journal for scholarly commutation. This paper presents that the concept of scholarly communication and the definition of e-journal and how e-journal helps the researchers for their research works and how the research scholar's access to electronics journals, this paper also comments the difference between print and e-journal, major challenges of e-journals etc.

Keywords: *Scholarly communication, e-journal, Print Journal, Information and Communication Technology.*

1. Introduction:-

In recent years, Internet basically use of web 2.0 has been the major force, which has led to the electronic versions of library collections, like books, journals, CD-ROMs. E-journals form a major part of the digital collection and it is a most useful tool to communicate worldwide research scholar. Today' s ICT era e-journals have proved powerful tools in teaching, learning and supporting research in all the academic and special institutions because it is user friendly, quick search, multi user access, any time any where etc. Conventionally libraries were well equipped with only printed journals, but the rapid information and communication technology and digital revolution made it possible for their representation in electronic figure, which in turn has added a dynamic way of learning and research for the scholars (Bist 2005). The number of journals in electronic form has grown steadily since then. Now there are more than 14246 scholarly research and professional electronic journals available on the net.

2. About Scholarly Communication:

Scholarly communication is the process or system of academics, scholars and researchers sharing and publishing and preserve their research findings so that they are available to the wider academic community (such as university academics) and beyond. . Some scholars argue that electronic publication is much more likely to facilitate communication in the scholarly communities because it can speed up communication and is costs appear to be much lower and e-journal is faster to

communicate widely research scholar and it is a best way to contribute their research work each other. So e-resource in special reference to e-journal is very important to scholarly communication.

3. E-Journal Concept:-

An electronic journal, as its name implies, is a serial containing research papers, review articles, scholarly communications, issued periodically in electronic form, by using computers. E-Journals may be defined very broadly as any journals, magazine, e'zine, webzine, newsletters or any type of electronic serial publication, which is available over the Internet. In the electronic environment teaching, learning and research are being supported by e-journals as new powerful tools. E-journals have an impact not only on libraries but on authors and publishers too. Correct and timely information is a key to sound decisions. Hence, now-a-days majority of the users expect more relevant, up-to date and timely information from modern library and information centres.

4. Definition of E-Journal:-

- ➢ Smith (2003) defines e-journal as 'any journal that is available online, including both electronic only journals, and journals that are available both electronically and in print'.
- ➢ Bombak et al. (1992) define e-journal as ' a publication whose primary means of delivery to subscribers is through computer files.'
- ➢ University of Glasgow library defines e-journal as "Any journal that is available over the internet can be called an electronic journal" (Bhatt 2005).
- ➢ According to Lancaster, "E-journal is a journal created for the electronic medium and available only in this medium" (Lancaster 1995).
- ➢ According to AACR2 the definition of a journal is " A publication in any medium issued in successive parts bearing numerical or chronological designations and indented to be continued indefinitely"

5. Types of e-journals:-

E-journal are basically four types, these are

Pure e-journals: – journals whose text is originally distributed only in digital form. Examples include *the Electronic Journal of Communication, the Journal of Digital Information, the Internet Journal of Archaeology*

E-p-journals: – journals is primarily distributed electronically, but may have very limited distribution in paper form. Examples include *the Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research* and *the Electronic Transactions on Artificial Intelligence.*

P-e-journals: – journals that are primarily distributed in paper form, but which are also distributed in electronic form. Examples include S*cience, Physical Review*, and thousands of other scientific journals.

P+e-journals:-Those are initiated with parallel paper and electronic editions that may be widely distributed. *The American Chemical Society's Organic Letters* is an example.

6. Print journal versus e-journal:-

There are some difference between e-journal and Print journal these are given below

Sl.No	Print Journal	E-Journal
1	Print Journals are basically in print format.	E- journals are basically the online versions of the print journals
2	Print Journal are published and distributed via print form.	E-Journals are published and distributed via internet.
3	Print Journal cannot be delivered to the desktop.	E-Journal can be delivered to the desktop.
4	Print Journal cannot be read by more than one person at a time.	E-Journal can be read by more than one person at a time.
5	Print Journal text cannot be searched.	E-Journal text can be searched.
6	Print Journal cannot include multimedia and graphics, in colour, at low cost.	E-Journal can include multimedia and graphics, in colour, at low cost.
7	Print Journal cannot be published more quickly than e-publications.	E-Journal can be published more quickly than paper publications.
8	E-Journal cannot be interactive; that is, they cannot foster an online exchange of ideas by e-mail.	E-Journal can be interactive; that is, they can foster an online exchange of ideas by e-mail.
9	E-Journal can be mutilated, stolen, lost vandalize.	E-Journal Cannot be mutilated, stolen, lost vandalize.
10	Shelving, binding, maintenance, claiming Public relation opportunities are not available in print journal.	Reduced shelving, binding, maintenance, claiming Public relation opportunities are available in e-journal.
11	The Print journal very difficult to reproduced, faster forwarded, modified, and not to possible problems with copyright protection and preserving authenticity.	The content can be reproduced, forwarded, modified, and leading to possible problems with copyright protection and preserving authenticity.

12	Print Journal is difficult to spread through user- friendly e -mail and the Web.	But e - Journal is easily spread through user-friendly e -mail and the Web, especially with its search engines of recent times.
13	Print Journal not Provides value addition such as searcheability,	Provides value addition such as searcheability, it supplements, formats unavailable in print formats and Simultaneous access.
14	Print journals just presents as it is. The way it has been print, the reader can only overlook it.	But e-journals can be a reflection of the authors' paper counterparts, as many are, or they can be quite different since one is not dealing with print.
15	Traditional journals have limited space and capacity. Authors cannot want more of their work published.	E-journal have unlimited space and capacity. Authors want more of their work published.

7.   Role of E-Journals in Scholarly Communities:-

Online publication without any print component was considered a key feature of the electronic journal for at least four reasons:

❖ **Navigation:** Navigation and search are two of the most attractive features that an online publication currently has to offer. For now, though, both features remain fairly primitive in most settings and are of limited value until the volume of publications grows significantly. Relatively few research journals are truly online in the sense of providing all of their material online rather than just abstracts and correspondence; those that have been online only for a short period. As a result, the amount of material published online to date is modest; search mechanisms are not particularly useful as yet, and navigation is confined to what is online. Indeed, most online journals to date have only primitive search mechanisms, if any at all.

❖ **Interactivity and related issues:** One exciting promise of online publication is interactivity. In a simple form, such interactivity is already present: for instance, a publication can feature Java applets that allow the reader to run customized examples. Other even simpler types of interactivity include the use of forms for querying a database (as discussed above under navigation, but put to different uses, such as making use of results discussed in an article by submitting a query to the authors' software). In future, with full multimedia publishing, those types of low- level interactivity should become far more common; it is mostly a process of educating authors and making them believe that the extra effort put into that type of interactivity is worth it. More subtle interactions will also appear. For instance, with the proliferation of online publications both browsers and servers will have to become more

responsive to a particular user's needs, to the point of completely tailoring the interface so that each user actually gets a distinct, unique view of the journal she or he is browsing. Of course, such a view has to evolve, taking into account the recent history of browsing by the user and automatically prioritizing the information available.

- ❖ **Refereeing:** A major problem experienced by all editors is that of obtaining timely reviews: all researchers are extremely busy and so often have to be harassed to deliver a promised review. Reviewing time is a major factor in the long publication delays that plague e- journals. Usually half of the typical two years from submission to publication is spent in the refereeing process. Refereeing is no different for an online journal than for a print journal ; collecting the two or three complete reports necessary to make a decision still takes closer to a year than to a few months. Unconventional mechanisms for refereeing are made possible by the online nature of a journal. For instance, one could post submissions to an area of the server available only to a pool of associate editors and let "natural selection" take its course: if no one volunteers to handle the article, that article is rejected.

- ❖ An online journal can publish data, programs, animations, and multimedia components that no print journal can publish.

- ❖ An online journal is inexpensive: at a time when libraries everywhere have to cut their subscription lists and when some print journals can cost a thousand dollars a year, anyone starting a new journal has a duty to the academic community to make that journal permanently affordable.

- ❖ An online journal can offer features, such as online search, not available to print journals. It can also evolve quickly.

- ❖ An online journal is not tied to a printer, a format, or a distribution network; it has no page count limitation and cannot suffer from the printing backlogs that are plaguing print journals in the area. In comparison to print journals, an on-line journal should thus have a shorter turnaround time as well as more flexibility in what it can publish.

8. Impacts of E-Journals in Research Works:-

E-journals have added more advantage and made it dynamic for the research scholars for their research activities. Some of the important features of e-journals in research work

- ❖ Multiple access simultaneously is a strong feature that an e-journal provides to the researchers;
- ❖ E-journals are accessible to all scholars regardless of geographical location through Proper Compatible software and browser services;
- ❖ It does not require time-consuming printing and mailing process, therefore an e-journal take less time to publish and distribute and make it accessible;
- ❖ No space restriction i.e. an e-journal can publish a greater number of articles compared to the print counterpart;
- ❖ Occupy very little space if stored in a CD-ROM;

- ❖ Can include sources, video, and interactive and 3 dimensional models. E-journal can publish colour figure and graphics at no extra cost;
- ❖ Users can access individual articles by making pay-per-view i.e. pay for the required articles if they do not want to subscribe to the entire journal;
- ❖ Some online journals can be accessed without paying any charge;
- ❖ E-journals can be distributed more economically than the paper ones, because the main costs of preparing the text, the review process and other such procedures are not as capital-intensive as the costs of printing and mailing print copies;
- ❖ Interaction by means of letters to the editor and opinion forum is a dynamic feature of an e-journal;
- ❖ Some journals include at the end of every paper a forum where readers and authors can exchange opinions. An electronically published article can very easily contain a link, which facilitates e-mail communication with the author or the editor;
- ❖ E-journal can contain hyperlinks to cited articles and other information sources such as related journals or websites;
- ❖ Searching facilities in e-journals are very effective and fast. E-journals provide excellent search facilities with every issue in which user can search articles not only by title, author , keyword but can also use Boolean operators for searching;
- ❖ E-journal is never missing from the shelf , and several people can read the same article at once from separate workstations;
- ❖ Ludwick and Glazer States "the ability to easily locate use of electronic journal articles through user sessions or "hits" is a welcome benefit for scholars interested in documenting impact of their scholarly work for promotion and tenure committees"
- ❖ Usage statistics can be generated by using accepted standards;
- ❖ Cross reference of references can be viewed.

9. Major Challenges of E-Journals:-

- ❖ Need special equipment.
- ❖ Lack compatibility among different publishers.
- ❖ Require promotion and training.
- ❖ Cause more concern about copyright.
- ❖ Are more difficult to browse than paper journals.
- ❖ Do not have sufficient journal and time coverage.
- ❖ Result in excessive printing.
- ❖ Are hard to be incorporated with paper journals.
- ❖ Require complex licensing agreements.
- ❖ Need technical support.
- ❖ Are hard to cite because they are constantly changing.
- ❖ Some time internet links are broken.
- ❖ Lapsed subscriptions.

- ❖ Inconsistencies between the dates of coverage in the catalog record vs. actual dates of coverage online. For example, the catalog record promises coverage from 2000-2004 but in reality we only have access to 2000-2003.
- ❖ Inconsistencies between the type of coverage you would expect and the coverage provided for example, the catalog record promises full-text but there is only access to the abstracts.
- ❖ Low bandwidth in major institutes. Which is also effected to access of e-journals.
- ❖ Many publishers protect their profits by not allowing electronic access to the most recent issue or current year of their publication.
- ❖ Continue use of e-journal is strenuous for eyes.
- ❖ There is no uniformity and consistency of format/user interface.

10. How Do Research Scholars Access to Electronics Journals:-

Scholars involved in research can access electronic journals through several ways for free or subscribed e-journals. The ways through which scholars can access electronic journals are

- ✓ Through publishers websites.
- ✓ Through university websites.
- ✓ Through search engines.
- ✓ Through library portals.
- ✓ Through Subject portals.
- ✓ Through Subject gateways.
- ✓ Through online databases.
- ✓ Through full text databases available through library.
- ✓ Through bibliographic databases.
- ✓ E-journals available in CD, DVD or any other storage devices.
- ✓ Through library consortium etc.

10.1 Publisher's Website

There are so many e-journals publishers are publishing e-journals and providing it to the users through their website according to subject or any specialization. E.g. American Chemical Society in Chemistry field, H.W. Wilson etc.

10.2 Library websites

(a) Public domain e-journals: These e-journals are free and nobody have propriety interest.

(b) Subscribed E-journals: Many universities subscribe in bulk to packages of electronic journals, so as to provide access to them to their students and faculty (University of Delhi).

10.3 Search Engines

Web search engine is designed to search for information on the World Wide Web and FTP servers. The search results are generally presented in a list of results and are often called hits. The information may consist of web pages, images, information and other types of files. Some search engines also mine data available in databases or open directories. E.g. Google, Yahoo, Web Crawler etc.

10.4 Library portal

Software that allows a computer user to customize online access to collections of information resources by creating a list of Internet connections, much like a personalized directory of street addresses and telephone/fax numbers (example: MyLibrary). Library portals are designed to reduce information overload by allowing patrons to select only the resources they wish to display on their personal interface. (Reitz 2010)

10.5 Subject Portals

Software that allows a computer user to customize online access to collections of information resources according to the subject like science, humanities etc

10.6 Open Access E-journals

Open access 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 the internet itself."E.g. Directory of Open Access Journals.

10.7 Subject Gateways

Gateways are portals to information that are usually limited to a specific domain or subject area. The resources accessible through these gateways are reviewed, selected, evaluated and catalogued by information professionals or subject experts. e.g. Intute: A freely available Internet service which aims to provide a trusted source of selected, high quality Internet information for students, academics, researchers and practitioners in Science & Technology, Arts and Humanities Social Sciences, Health and Life Sciences (http://www.int...).

10.8 Online Databases

Online databases are those databases which are available online to users through library websites it can be subscribed or freely available.

10.9 Bibliographic Database

Database of bibliographic records, an organized digital collection of references to published literature, including journal and newspaper articles, conference proceedings, reports, government and legal publications, patents, books, etc. In contrast to library catalogue entries, a large proportion of the bibliographic records in bibliographic databases describe analytics (articles, conference papers, etc.) rather than complete monographs, and they generally contain very rich subject descriptions in the form

of keywords, subject classification terms, or abstracts. e.g., Inspec is a major indexing database of scientific and technical literature, published by the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE).

10.10 E-journal's Consortium

Library consortium is a cooperative arrangement among groups of libraries or institutions helping to derive the best possible purchase bargain from publishers due to collective buying power. In other words, it is a kind of an agreement between various publishers and cooperative group of libraries/ information centers, for accessing the large number of e-journals published by various publishers/ group of publishers on highly discounted rates. It usually refers to cooperation, coordination and collaboration between and amongst libraries for the purpose of sharing information (Singh and Krishan Kumar 2005)

11. Conclusion:-

Evidence of the rapidly growing acceptance of electronics journals within the scholarly community in whole world. E-journal is the result of ICT change. Research scholar's demand has also changed. In today's information and communication technology (ICT) era, the emergence of Internet, particularly the World Wide Web (www) has changed the medium of communication of information. Now research scholars are using the Internet as a global way to offer their publications to the international research scholar's community. So we say that e-journal is very much important for research work and widely scholar community. In very short we can conclude it by saying that in the electronic environment research is being supported by e-journals as a new powerful tool.

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