

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

Study on the utilization behaviour of online journals by the students of UAS-Dharwad

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SUMMARY : The study was taken up in University Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (UAS-D), UAS-D offered PG programme in 24 disciplines and Ph.D programme in 17 disciplines, among them 10 disciplines were selected. The sample size was 50 students consisting 30 post graduates and 20 doctoral programme students using Simple Random Sampling technique. Five students were selected from each of the 10 selected departments using simple random sampling technique. Percentage analysis was used for data analysis. About two-third of the students referred online journals for their purpose of assignment, seminar and research. Majority of the students faced the problems like getting user name, password, long time to download an article, read only content and limited availability of online journals are the major difficulties faced in access and usage of online journals. These problems could be addressed to enhance the learning of online journals among the students of UAS-D.

KEY WORDS :

Online journals,
Usage, Assignments,
Problems

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Electronic literacy (Online journal) is not isolated from the types of literacy practiced with print but rather involve added layers that account for the new possibilities presented in the electronic medium of computers and the Internet. Electronic literacy is actually an umbrella term that encompasses several other generic literacies of the information era, including computer literacy, information literacy, multimedia literacy and computer-mediated communication literacy. These new literacies stem in part from the new technological features of the computer but also from the broader social setting in which

computers are used (Warschauer, 2003).

Online journal usage is fundamental to the effective use of ICTs. It should also be supported by the development of relevant online content. Majority of online journals' content currently emanated from the US is text based and written in English.

Computer Mediated Education literacy also plays an important role in the facilitation of online learning and distance education which has the potential to extend learning opportunities to millions who would otherwise be denied a good education (World Bank and Aus AID, 2001).

The key element in all of this is not "access" either to infrastructure or end user

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terminals. Rather what is significant is having access and then with that access having the knowledge, skills, attitude and supportive organizational and social structures to make effective use of that access and using on line journals to achieve students community objectives. Keeping this fact in mind a study was conducted with the following objectives:

- To study the utilization behaviour of online scientific journals by the students of UAS-D.
- To identify the factors influencing their usage of online journals.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was taken up in University Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. UAS-D offered PG programme in 24 disciplines and Ph.D programme in 17 disciplines, among them 10 disciplines viz., Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Entomology, Agricultural Extension, Agronomy, Horticulture, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Plant pathology, Seed science and Technology, Soil science and Agricultural Chemistry and Bio technology were purposively selected for the study. Since some of the online journals of these departments are available online for their research purpose. The sample size was 50 students consisting 30 post graduates and 20 doctoral programme students using Simple Random Sampling technique. Five students were selected from each of the 10 selected departments using simple random sampling

technique. The data were collected using well structured questionnaire. Percentage analysis was used for data analysis.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The utilization behaviour of online journals by the student's community of UAS-D was studied and the results are presented in Table 1. It shows that more than half (56.00%) of the students were male. Regarding educational qualification nearly one-third (36.00%) of the students belonged to second year post graduation and nearly one fourth (8.0%) of the students belonged to first year doctoral programme. Two-thirds (66.00%) of the students did not possess personal computer. Majority of the agricultural students come from middle and poor economic background might be the reason for not possessing personal computer. About three- fourths (86.00%) of the students lack internet connectivity. The internet facilities available in central computer center and department computers might be the reason for not showing interest to get a separate connectivity.

Student's awareness, interest, access and preferences of using online journals:

The Table 2 shows that overwhelming majority (86.00%) of the students was aware about the availability of online journals in their respective subjects and only meager per cent (14.00%) of the students were not

Table 1: Personal characteristics of the students			(n=50)
Variables		No.	%
Gender			
	Male	28	56
	Female	22	44
Educational qualification			
M.Sc. (Ag.)	I Year	12	24
	II Year	18	36
Ph.D. (Agri.)	I Year	4	8
	II Year	7	14
	III Year	9	18
Computer ownership			
	Yes	17	34
	No	33	66
Internet connection			
	Yes	7	14
	No	43	86

aware about the online journals. It could be discussed that students' community had the chance of going out seeking the information from the browsing centers.

Majority (76.00%) of the students had shown interest in reading online journals. A variety of impressive information, different sources of search engine, information clarity and illustrations were the reasons perceived by the students' interest for reading the online journals. A less than one-fifth (14.00%) of the students had not shown interest. Size of letter, eye irritation due to waving computer and less time availability might be the reasons the students have not shown interest to read online journals.

Students' preference to the type of online journals:

The student's opinion regarding their preference to the type of online journals and the reasons are presented in the Table 3. It shows that nearly 68.29 per cent of the

students preferred both Indian and International journals followed by the Indian (12.20%) and International (19.51%) journals, respectively. Since, adequate and recent information are available in both the journals.

Regarding reasons for preferences, a majority (72.00%) of the students had preferred online journals due to their access @ free of cost. Half the students expressed regular updating of information (64.00%) and user friendly (58.00%) were the prime reasons for preferring online journals. About 42 per cent of the students preferred due to quality of articles in terms of standard of publication followed by attractive page makeup /page layout (34.00%).

Regarding purpose of using online journals it was found that a slightly higher than two- third (54.00%) of the students utilized online journals for the purpose of assignments, seminars and research. Only a meager percentage (6.00%) of the students utilized online journal

Particulars	No.	%
Awareness about online journals		
Yes	43	86
No	7	14
Interest in reading online journals		
Yes	38	76
No	12	24
Access to online journals		
Yes	39	78
No	13	26

Particulars	No.	%
Preference to the type of online journals		
Indian journals	5	12.20
International journals	8	19.51
Both	28	68.29
Reasons for preferences		
Open access / Free of cost	36	72.00
Regular updating	32	64.00
User friendly	29	58.00
Regular updating	25	50.00
Quality in terms of standard of publication	21	42.00
Attractive page makeup (Page layout)	17	34.00

for other purposes. It is evident that the students' community effectively used online journals for their academic purposes.

Whereas 36 per cent of the students only had membership of online journals and more than half (76.00%) of the students were found to have no membership with any online journals. It was observed that the student community lacked financial support to become a member of online journals. User difficulties in access of online journals.

A perusal of Table 5 revealed that nearly a less than three-fourth (78.00%) of the students expressed non-availability of user name and password as the prime: difficulty in accessing the online journals. About 66.00 per cent of the students had faced the problems of downloading full articles, an some proportion of students faced difficulties like subscription amount (58.00%), read only content (48.00%) in accessing the online journals. An same proportion of students opined that time taken for down loading the articles (48.00%), limited online

journals (38.00%) and poor connectivity (32.00%) were the major difficulties in the usage of online journals.

In the recent years computer mediated learning / listening is playing a major role in academic and student's research. Now-a-day's students are effectively using computers and internet connection for their academic purposes. About one-third of the students had owned computer and internet connectivity. Majority of the students had awareness about online journals, shown interest on seeking information from both Indian and International online journals. Free of cost, regular updating and user friendly were the major reasons for the preference of online journals. About two-third of the students referred online journals for their purpose of assignment, seminar and research. Majority of the students faced the problems like getting user name, password, long time to download article, read only content and limited online journals are purposes. About one-third of the students had owned computer and internet

Particulars	No.	%
Assignments, Research and Seminar	27	54
Research	8	16
Seminar	5	10
Assignments	4	8
Others	3	6
Membership to online journals		
Yes	18	36
No	38	76

Particulars	No.	%
Needs user name and password	39	78.00
Not able to download full articles	33	66.00
Majority of the journals are not free of cost	29	58.00
Cannot download full articles	25	50.00
Read only content	24	48.00
Take long time to down load the articles	24	48.00
Limited online journals are available	19	38.00
Internet connection is poor / low	16	32.00
Some articles giving only abstract	18	36.00
Back volumes not available	12	24.00
Difficulties to find out the free and paid online	9	18.00
Reliability of the content	8	16.00

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