

The Effectiveness Electronic Journal by Research Scholars

Zaharudin Ibrahim, Shamsul Kamal Wan Fakeh, Wan Abdul Malik, Siti Nurul Maryam, Nor Zaina Zaharah, A' dillah Mustafa, Ahmad Soufien Othman, Mohd Ridzuan Ibrahim, Abu Bakar Suleiman, Shah Alam, Juwahir Ali

Faculty of Information Management, University Technology MARA (UiTM),
MALAYSIA

ABSTRACT

Electronic Journal also known as E-Journal becomes one of the main resources available via the electronic devices. Information Agencies play an important role in order to fulfill client requirements. Librarian is the person who is responsibilities to contribute and support the services in the library to achieve the library goals and objectives and support the clients with the quality and effective services. This study is to determine the level of depth in use by the research scholars in using electronic journals provided by the library. Which are includes the awareness, frequency, purposes, contents, difficulties, and preferences of e-journals that have positive impact to the usage of e- journals among research scholars in UiTM. The findings and the results will be used to indicate the recommendations and suggestion to library and the research scholars itself.

Keyword

Electronic, Journal, librarian, services, purpose, content, impact, research.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Electronic can be effective when used cautiously and professionally. They serve a range of purposes, from helping students and parents/guardians access assignments and resources related to classroom studies to connecting with classrooms in other communities and countries. Members also use the Internet and social networking sites as instructional tools and for professional development, seeking information on lesson plans, new developments and methodologies. However, the most popular social media applications were not created specifically for educational purposes and their use can expose members to risk when it comes to maintaining professionalism. It is up to members to know and respect proper professional boundaries with students, even when students initiate electronic interaction. Regarding to the information age and society of today, information and communication technology (ICT) become as an enabling tool that manage information. The processes involved makes libraries have moved to an electronic environment. Basically there are five types of libraries which are national libraries, academic libraries, public

libraries, special libraries and school libraries. The libraries are proposed to provide information to users by obtaining, organizing, making available and reserving printed and none printed material required meeting user need. With that attention the quantity of journal is growing larger and larger although no exact number is available. In recent years, more journal's content have been digitized, a necessary process for turning a paper journal into an electronic sources. Research from ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee 2012, about top ten trends in academic libraries: A review of the trends and issues affecting academic libraries in higher education.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

A study carried out by Bancroft et al., who examined the use of library services at the Washington State University Libraries in 1996. The findings shown that, nearly 50% gave high appreciation to the ability to download full-text articles in the future. It seems that already in 1996 academics realized the value of journal even without actually using them. In 2001 a large-scale online survey was administered to the whole faculty and a sample of graduate students at the University of Maryland. The large majority (70%) wanted core media to be available in both formats, while for non-core journals, 70% preferred electronic access only. The main concerns about moving to electronic only were image quality and access to the full content of the journal. A survey of electronic journal usage at Ohio State University carries out by Rogers (2001) noted the increased use of e-journals and decreased use of printed journals by the faculty and the graduate students during 1998 to 2000. This study revealed that forty one percent of the faculty and twenty five percent of graduate students found round the clock availability and easy access as the major advantages of e-journals. Both the faculty and the graduate students noted that switching to e-journals would save space in the library and it would also be easier to incorporate e-journals into electronic presentations. Flecker (2001) is of opinion that e-journals have become the largest and the fastest growing segment of the digital collections for most of the libraries in the past 2 or 3 years and in many ways,

archiving and preserving e-journals will be dramatically different from what has been done for paper based journals. He stressed that the process must be funded by the governments through the national libraries or similar bodies, particularly for materials subject to copyright deposit. In the study on readiness of researchers on the electronic only journal collection, Dillon and Hahn (2002) investigated the frequency of using scholarly journals (both print and electronic), and other electronic format used for accessing information at the University of Maryland. The study revealed increased level of adoption of e-journals among faculty, giving support to multiple formats for core disciplinary journals, and the differing perceptions of various constituencies among the respondents. The study suggested that the faculty is more interested in retaining print access to core literature as compared to the graduate students.

3. RESEARCH PROCESS

In the library environment, there are the several substitutes that are focusing on how to narrow down the increasing of academic writing. Bar-Ilan and Fink (2005) reported the results of a survey on the use of printed and electronic journals in a science library. He found that the users had already been exposed to electronic journals for a number of years; most of the scientific journals were accessible in electronic format while the print format was still available. Tenopir (2003) in a major survey of the literature on the subject analyzed the results of over 200 studies of the use of electronic resources in libraries published between 1995 and 2003. In the library environment, there are the several substitutes that are focusing on how to narrow down the increasing of academic writing. Bar-Ilan and Fink (2005) reported the results of a survey on the use of printed and electronic journals in a science library. He found that the users had already been exposed to electronic journals for a number of years; most of the scientific journals were accessible in electronic format while the print format was still available.

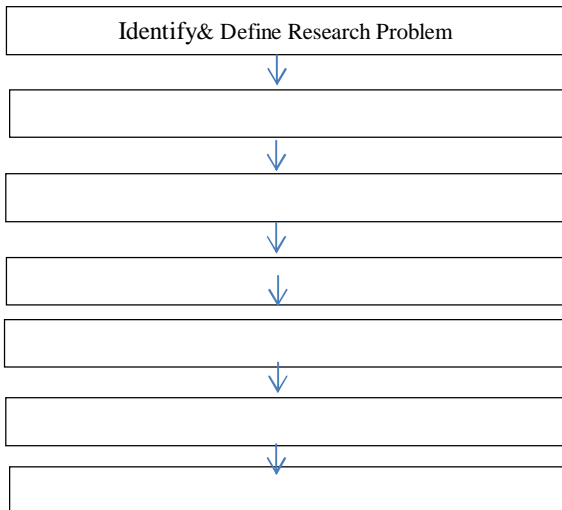


Table 1. Research Process

3.1 Level Depth of Use

Level depth of use of electronic journals provided by the libraries in University Technology MARA. E-journals provide by the library UiTM is wide-range. In part, this study is to investigate the level depth of use of the electronic journals by the research scholars in UiTM. This study is investigating the level depth of use of electronic journals by the research scholars, whether there are have high level or low level of use in using electronic journals in their information needs. In the recent years, there has been a phenomenal growth of electronic journals.

3.2 Awareness

Previous study on awareness of the faculty and administrators toward electronic resources was studied at University of Utah. The concern of the authors of this paper was that since electronic databases and journals are not displayed on the libraries' shelves, it may be the case that the faculty members and administrators are not *aware of the existence of these services*. Indeed, the findings showed great earned for "publicity" and "training". One of the largest projects to date was the Stanford E-journal study (eJUS), a two-year project which begun in Fall 2000, funded by the Mellon Foundation and carried out by the Stanford University Libraries.

3.3 Purpose

E-journal is being used for various purposes. That means the intention why they used e-journals. The purposes of e-journals includes; as a guidelines to their studies for the students and lecturers. And also their intention to publish their article in the online database such as Emerald, Science Direct, Ebscohost, and oon. Research scholars were familiar with their research works and also seminars and conferences. E-journal can help them to find relevant information in the area of their specialization. However, e-journals can help them to improve their knowledge in the area of interest.

3.4 Content

The level of fulfillment requirement have positive impact of usage of e-journal, it means that the contents of e-journals itself can be impact to the usage of e-journals. This study investigating whether the requirements contents of the e-journals provide by UiTM Library can give impact on the level of usage of e-journals for them. E-journals have now been recognized as a major link in scholarly communication. In order to understand the curiosity of the research scholars in their use of e-resources as well as to know, whether they are getting adequate information for their work or not, this study will ask the some question relate to content of the e-journal itself, which meet the users information needs or not.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research covers on the positivism or quantitative research paradigm. The process begins with identification and define the research problems and go through with research theory, hypothesis, research design, data collection, data analysis and end with findings.

4.1 Research Paradigm

Quantitative method has been chosen for this study. This study was using hypothesis testing and follows the research process below. The data type obtained from this research is mainly numbers to testing the measurement of hypotheses.

4.2 Population and Sampling

Population refers to the focus groups of people that interest to researchers to investigate. For this study, sampling design applied is probability which the population have some known, non-zero chance. However, for the sampling technique used that will be applied is a stratified random technique. A total of number 150 questionnaire was distributed to the research scholars with population of 200.

4.3 Research Instrument

Questionnaires are usually a type of quantitative research that is used for reaching large amounts of people. They usually consist of closed questions. Advantages of questionnaires are that they can gain large quantities of data if sent out by post. They also can reach widely dispersed groups as particular samples can easily be worked out. Self-completion questionnaires are also less time consuming for researchers as they do not have to meet people in face to face and conduct interviews. Questionnaires are also quick and cheap as once the questions are written, the questionnaires only have to be printed and handed/posted out to the correct people.

4.4 Data Analysis

Once the data have been collected, the process of data entry will be using the statistical software Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Data Editor. Which the data can be transforming, measuring and analyzing will be done to test the hypothesis. The descriptive analysis displays summary statistics for several variables in a single table and calculates standardized values. Variables can be measured by the size of their frequencies, percentage of means and others. Multiple regressions: provides a means of objectively assessing the degree and the character of the relationship between independent and dependent variables.

4.5 Reliability and Validity

To measuring the reliability and trustworthiness of this research finding, Cronbach's alpha will be used

whether the reliability coefficient that will indicated with the each items. Cronbach's alphas a measure of internal consistency, that is, how closely related a set of items are as a group. Factor analysis will be conducted to construct the validity of the results. Impart, the reliability and the validity of each finding will related to the hypotheses of this study.

5. ANALYSIS

The analysis and result findings will start with the responses rate by demographic profile, reliability analysis, descriptive analysis, correlation analysis and hypotheses testing on the variables. The hypotheses testing used the Pearson correlation analysis. All the results will be shown in the table and figure. In the demographic analysis, the table shown that, there 44 respondents are female and 48 respondents are male. And the table by age shown that there are 5 categories of age of the respondents that have been participate to this study. The results from the age of 21-25 years are 39 respondents. Followed by from the 26-30 years are 23 respondents, 31-40 years are 12 respondents, and 41-50 years are 11 respondents and 51 years and above are 7 respondents. There are two types of respondents that have been contribute for this study, which are they are the research scholars from the 57 respondents from postgraduate students and also 37 respondents from lecturers.

Demographic Profile

		Gender		
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	44	47.8	47.8	47.8
Female	48	52.2	52.2	100.0
Total	92	100.0	100.0	

Table 2. Responses rate by 'Gender'
Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 20 -25	39	42.4	42.4	42.4
26 -30	23	25.0	25.0	67.4
31 - 40	12	13.0	13.0	80.4
41 - 50	11	12.0	12.0	92.4
51 and above	7	7.6	7.6	100.0
Total	92	100.0	100.0	

Table 3. Responses rate by 'Age'

The Effectiveness Electronic Journal by Research Scholars

Profession				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Student	57	62.0	62.0	62.0
Lecture	35	38.0	38.0	100.0
Total	92	100.0	100.0	

Table 4. Responses rate by 'Profession'

5.1 Awareness of e-journal

Results of awareness e-journal among research scholars shown that, the mean score of the awareness of using e-journals variable is above the mid value of 3 and this implies that most of research scholars in this study had the aware about e-journals. Based on table 5, among the five item statement, the item number five scored the highest mean value, suggesting that most of research scholar aware about e-journal from their friends, lectures. The result is (85.8%) give the scale of "Strongly Agree" and Agree" for that item. The respondents also showed high agreement on the statement " I know the existence of the e-journal from library promotion and online resources.

Variable	Item Statement	Frequency and Percentage					Mean	Overall Mean
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree		
Awareness of e-journal	B1	I know what is e-journal	-	9 9.8%	27 29.3%	49 53.3	7 7.6%	3.59
	B2	I am aware that the e-journal is one of the services in the library	-	6 6.5%	18 19.6%	61 66.3%	7 7.6%	3.75
	B3	I know the existence of the e-journal from magazines and newspaper	-	5 5.4%	27 29.3%	50 54.3%	10 10.9%	3.71
	B4	I know the existence of the e-journal from library promotion- and online resources	-	-	19 20.7%	65 70.7%	8 8.7%	3.88
	B5	I know existence of the e-journal from my friends, lectures.	-	-	13 14.1%	66 71.1%	13 14.1%	4.00

Table 5. Analysis of Awareness of e-journals

5.2 Purpose of e-journal

This study result for purposes in using e- journals, most of the research scholars choose to "I am usually use the E-Journal to find relevant information in the area of specialization" with 79.3% respondents. "I am usually use the E- Journal for my research works" with 72.4%. According to the findings of previous study of "Use of e-journal among research scholars at Central Science Library, University New Delhi, 47.50% of respondents use online journals and databases for their research work, 45.63% use it for course- related studying, 41.25% use online journals for updating subject knowledge, and 26.25% use online journals.

Variable	Item Statement	Frequency and Percentage					Mean	Overall Mean
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree		
Purpose of e-journal	D1	I am normally use the e-journal for my studies	-	14 15.2%	26 28.3%	50 54.3%	2 2.2%	3.43
	D2	I am only use the e-journal for publishing articles	-	9 9.8%	17 18.5%	63 68.5%	3 3.3%	3.65
	D3	I am usually use the e-journal for my research works	1 1.1%	5 5.4%	31 33.7%	25 27.2%	30 32.6%	3.85
	D4	I am usually use the e-journal to find relevant info. In the area of specialization	-	3 3.3%	16 17.4%	52 56.5%	21 22.8%	3.99
	D5	I know existence of the e-journal from my friends, lectures.	-	5 5.4%	22 23.9%	55 59.8%	10 10.9%	3.76

Table 6. Analysis of Purpose of e-journal

5.3 Content of e-journal

The finding shows that the research scholars using the e-journal depending on the contents of e-journal itself. There is 70.6% respondents use e-journal because of their research works. "I am usually use the E-Journal because the information is more related and useful to my research works". 64% respondents agree with "E-Journals always give me accurate information rather than using search engines". 55(84.62percent) respondents of NDRI can access the various e- resources easily.

Variable	Item Statement	Frequency and Percentage					Mean	Overall Mean
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree		
Content of e-journal	E1	e-journal always give me relevant information	2 2.2%	11 12.0%	34 37.0%	40 43.5%	5 5.4%	3.38
	E2	I am usually use e-journal in the library because the e-journal always give me current information	-	7 7.6%	34 37.0%	45 48.9%	6 6.5%	3.54
	E3	I am usually use the e-journal because of the interface of e-journal itself	50 54.3%	13 14.1%	19 20.7%	1 1.1%	9 9.8%	3.58
	E4	I am usually use the e-journal because the information is more related and useful to my research works	-	8 8.7%	19 20.7%	58 63.0%	7 7.6%	3.70
	E5	e-journal always give me accurate information rather than using search engines	-	6 6.5%	26 28.3%	54 58.7%	6 6.5%	3.65

Table 7. Analysis of Content of e-journal

6. CONCLUSION

The usage of these resources is not more than 65% as compare to the awareness which is 80%. Therefore, the situation demands that necessary steps should be taken by the library authorities to increase the usage of present library e-resources. PDF is the preferred online format for reading e-journals. The Library should increase its number of work stations and maintain its systems regularly. Bandwidth should be increased by the Library so as to provide faster access, which will save users time and become a source of motivation to use e-journals. From the previous discussion it is very clear that the use of e-information sources is expected to increase in future. The research scholars who participated in this survey were aware of e-resources and majority of the mused these resources in support of their research and they are adept at using these sources. This shows that e-information sources will continue to be necessary components of the academic community. Many research scholars learnt about the e-resources by the advice of their teachers/friends/colleagues.

REFERENCES

- [1] ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee, Judith Bar-Ilan, Bluma C. Peritz and Yechezkel Wolman, "A Survey of the Use of Electronic Databases and Electronic Journals Accessed through the Web by the Academic Staff of Israeli Universities", *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 29 (November 2012), pp.346–361
- [2] Bar-Ilan and Fink, (2005), "A survey on the use of printed and electronic journal in a science library. Vol. 68 No. 1, pp. 26-44.
- [3] Carol Tenopir, Donald W. King, Peter Boyce, Matt Grayson and Keri-Lynn Paulson, "Relying on Electronic Journals: Reading Patterns of Astronomers", *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* 56 (2005), pp.786–802.
- [4] Dillon and Hahn, (2002), "Using scholarly journal and other electronic format used for accessing information at the University of Maryland. *Library and Information Networking (NACLIN)* 2006, 27-30 September.
- [5] Fall, "A Survey of the Use of Electronic Databases and Electronic Journals Accessed through the Web by the Academic Staff of Israeli Universities", *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 29 (November 2000), pp.346–361
- [6] Flecker, Largest and the fastest growing segment of the digital collections for most libraries. The Impact of Electronic Journals on the University of Georgia", *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 29 (May 2003), pp. 162–167.
- [7] Judith Bar-Ilan, Bluma C. Peritz and Yechezkel Wolman, "A Survey of the Use of Electronic Databases and Electronic Journals Accessed through the Web by the Academic Staff of Israeli Universities", *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 29 (November 2003), pp.346–361
- [8] Keiko Kurata, Mamiko Matsubayashi, Shinji Mine, Tomohide Muranushi and Shuichi Ueda, "Electronic Journals and Their Unbundled Functions in Scholarly Communication: Views and Utilization by Scientific, Technological and Medical Researchers in Japan," *Information Processing and Management* 43 (2007): 1402–15.
- [9] M. Masoom Raza and Ashok Kumar Upadhyay, "Usage of E-journals by Researchers in Aligarh-Muslim University: A study," *The International Information and Library Review* 38(2006):170–79.
- [10] Nicholas, D. and Huntington, P. (2006a), "Characterising Open Access journal users and establishing their information seeking behavior using deep log analysis techniques: case study Oxford Open", (unpublished report), UCL, London.
- [11] Nicholas, D., Huntington, P. and Watkinson, A. (2005a), "Scholarly journal usage: the results of deep log analysis", *Journal of Documentation*, Vol. 61 No. 2, pp.248-80.
- [12] S. A. Rogers. "Electronic Journal Usage at Ohio State University". *College & Research Libraries* 62(2001): 25–34.
- [13] Tammy R. Siebenberg, Betty Galbraith and Eileen E. Brady, "Electronic Journal Use in Three Sci/Tech Disciplines: What's Going on Here?", *College and Research Libraries* 65 (2004), pp. 427–438.
- [14] Voorbijand Ongerling, "The Use of Electronic Journals," p. 223 37.