

**TRENDS IN USAGES OF E-JOURNALS AMONG THE DOCTORS: A STUDY OF  
JORHAT MEDICAL COLLEGE**

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**ABSTRACT:**

*The paper is discussed about the trends in usage of e-journals among the doctors of Jorhat Medical College. The advent of ICT has carried a great revolution in the development of e-resources in the paperless society. E-journals are becoming increasingly prevalent in the information society. E-journals are playing a vital role for the users as it provides nascent and most up-to-date information for learning and research. The regular approach of the users for acquiring e-learning has also carried the great change of producing the e-journals rather than traditional printed journals to the academic and user community.*

**KEYWORDS:** *E-Journal, E-learning, ICT, Medical College.*

**INTRODUCTION:**

Information technology has changed the world and has become one of the important tools for retrieving information. Internet has made tremendous impact on the academic activities of the faculty members, researchers, and the students in the present knowledge society. The library has now a day's print as well as electronic collections. Journal publishers began to provide online access to full-text scholarly articles in the late 1990s, carrying a

great change for the every user. E-journals are major resources for scholarly communication in supporting learning and teaching, as well as research. Today libraries are facilitating the access of e-journals by spending a good amount of library budget. Some e-journals are published only in electronic format and have no print out form. These e-journals are accessed on payment or free basis. Some e-journals are freely available along with the print version by the publisher. Open access journals articles are peer-reviewed before the publication. These journals allow copyright to authors or publisher for publication and then the journals are available freely through online.

**Sasse and Winkler (1993)** defined that “Electronic journal is any journal which is available in electronic or computerized form on the internet or on CD-ROM. Electronic journals have been called by various names such as virtual journals, paperless journals, online journals, scholarly electronic journals, networked journals and CD-ROM journals “

**Gail Macmillan** defines E-journals as "any serials produced, published and distributed nationally and internationally via electronic networks such as Bitnet and Internet”.

**According to Jones (W)** "E-journals are available electronically via a computer or a computer network, that they may or may not be published in some other physical medium, but that are not CD-ROM's".

### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY:**

The scope of this study is limited to only clinical and non clinical doctors of Jorhat Medical College though there are many other users like junior resident doctors, medical officers, internship students etc.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

1. To know the awareness and maximum use of e-journals.
2. To identify the preference of using e-journals.
3. To know the frequency of using e-journals.
4. To know the purpose of using e-journals.
5. To know the most used format of e-journal articles.
6. To know the preferable links for retrieving e-journals.
7. To know the use pattern of e-journals.
8. To identify the problems being faced by the users while accessing e-journals.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

For this study a questionnaire was prepared and distributed it randomly to the clinical and non clinical doctor's only. Personal interview is also applied for collecting the required information inside the Central Library, JMC. The questionnaire was distributed among 137 doctors but out of these users only the 114 users has given the responses of the questionnaire. So the study was analyzed from the received information of these 114 users. The percentage of response is 83.21%.

**DATA ANALYSIS:**

The data collected through the questionnaire was tabulated and then analyzed for the results and discussions. The received responses from the users are provided in differently for better findings the responses from the users.

**Table1: Category wise e-journals users**

Sl. No	Categories	No. of Users	% of Users
1	Professor	12	10.52%
2	Associate Professor	29	25.43%
3	Assistant Professor	35	30.7%
4	Demonstrator	21	18.42%
5	Registrar	17	14.91%

From the above table it is seen that 30.7% Assistant Professors use e-journals, 25.43% Associate Professors use e-journals, and 18.42% Demonstrators use e-journals, 14.91% Registrars use e-journals and 10.52% Professors use e-journals.

**Table2: Preference of usages of e-journal**

Sl. No.	Preference level	No of Users	% of Users
1	Print version	93	81.57%
2	E-version	114	100%

From the above table it is seen that that 100% user prefers the e-version of journals for seeking their information and at the same time 81.57% users also prefer print version of journals for accessing information.

**Table3: Frequency of accessing e-journals**

Sl. No	Frequency	No. of Users	% of Users
1	Daily	9	7.89%
2	Once in a Week	14	12.28%
3	Twice in a week	33	28.94%
4	As per requirement	58	50.87%
5	Not at all	0	0

From the above table it is seen 50.87% users access the online journals as per their requirement, 28.94% users access online line journals twice in a week, 12.28% users access online journals once in a week and 7.89% users access online journals daily when they get time. All users access the online journals as per their convenience.

**Table4: Purpose of using the e-journals**

Sl. No.	Purpose	No of Users	% of Users
1	For studying the course and teaching	40	35.08%
2	For writing research article	47	41.22%
3	For seminar paper presentation /workshop/ CME	52	45.61%
4	For research work	38	33.33%
5	Updating information	21	18.42%

From the above table it is seen that 45.61% users use e-journals for seminar paper presentation/workshop/CME, 41.22% user’s use e-journals for writing the research article, 35.08% users use for studying so that they can teach the students in the course/syllabus. 33.33% users use e-journals for research work and 18.42% users use for updating information.

**Table5: Most usable format of e-journal articles**

Sl. No	Format of articles	No. of Users	% of Users
1	PDF	69	60.52%
2	Doc.	24	21.05%
3	Both	21	18.42%

60.52% users prefer the article of e-journals in PDF format, 21.05% users prefer the article of e-journals in MS-word format. 18.42% users prefer both PDF and Doc. format.

**Table6: Preferable links in using of e-journals**

Sl. No	Links of e-journals	No. of Users	% of Users
1	Publishers website	17	14.91%
2	E-journals website	42	36.84%
3	Using keywords through Search Engines	55	48.24%

From the above table it is seen that 48.24% users retrieve the online journals by using the keywords in different search engines, 36.84% users retrieve e-journal through e-journals website and 14.91% users retrieve online journals through publisher’s website.

**Table7: Use pattern of e-journals**

Sl. No	Use pattern	No. of Users	% of Users
1	Downloading in storage devices	44	38.59%
2	Printout form	23	20.17%
3	Note some main points	39	34.21%
4	Reading on the screen	8	7.01%

From the above table it is seen that 38.59% users download the e-journal and keep it in storage devices, 34.01% users note the main points in their note book, and 20.17% users take the printout of e-journals and 7.01% users just reading on the screen.

**Table8: Problems of using the e-journals**

Sl. No	Frequency	No. of Users	% of Users
1	Downloading problem	17	14.91%
2	Time consuming	39	34.21%
3	Low speed of network	26	22.8%
4	Lack of proper IT knowledge	9	7.89%
5	Not suitable as per required	32	28.07%
6	Archives are not available	18	15.78%
7	Non availability of full text of articles	28	24.56%

From the above table it is seen that 34.21% users think that for retrieving e-journals it needs a lots of time, 28.07% users feel that articles of e-journals are not suitable as per their requirement, 24.56% users do not get the availability of full text of articles of e-journals. 22.8% users can not retrieve the e-journals for the low speed of network, 15.78% users get problems as the back volume issues are not available of some e-journals, and 14.91% users get problem in downloading the articles of e-journals and lastly 7.89% users get problem for accessing the e-journals for the lack of proper IT knowledge.

**Table9: Satisfaction level of using the e-journals**

Sl. No	Satisfaction level	No. of Users	% of Users
1	Highly satisfied	48	42.1%
2	Average	66	57.89%
3	No satisfaction	0	0

From the above table it is seen that 57.89% users feel average satisfaction and 42.1% users feel full satisfaction in usages of e-journals.

### **ADVANTAGES OF E-JOURNALS:**

1. There is the digital saving and accessing facility of e-journals by which user don't feel bother for searching the information in the print journal.
2. By subscribing the e-journals in present time the library has also able to “save the space as well as the time” both for the users and the staff. It implies the fourth law of library science. The user can search rapidly and easily their required article through e-journals as it is tremendously available in www.
3. Use of ICT for publishing the scholar's article in this technological environment and diminishing of papers for the e-journals.
4. Through e-journals the user can navigate from one article to another related article and also able to depth search for any kind of information or meet the scholars and their writings through electronically and virtually within short time. There is the provision of hypertext links on e-journals.
5. The users can access the e-journals article from any corner of the world.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF E-JOURNALS:**

1. Some e-journals are too many costs for subscription and for that the user deprives to access the e-journals. The cost of the journal depends on the publisher and its editorial board.
2. The journal issues sometimes may not available through electronically though it is publish on e-journal mode as the e-journals have less permanent than print journals.

3. Though there is the vast use of e-journals still it is not comfortable for continuous reading on the screen by sitting in front of PC/laptop.
4. The print version of the same e-journals is also necessary because the user may not be able to retrieve e-journals due to some technical problems.
5. All e-journals may not be quality oriented for accessing the proper information to the users. Sometimes it may be published by some fake publisher (without license) for their personal benefit and in that case the scholars may lose their originality or suffer to expose their quality for the users.

#### **FINDINGS:**

1. 100% doctor prefers the e-version of journal than print version. And maximum doctor prefers also print version of journal as their convenience. But now a day's almost all journals are available both print as well as e-version of the same journal.
2. Doctors of JMC use the e-journals as per their requirement for the seminar paper presentation/workshop/CME and for writing research articles. They also access the e-journals once in a week or daily for their research oriented work, updating information and for studying the latest developing areas of the course so that they can teach the students in their classroom. The users also frequently use the e-journals for doing some project which will be helpful for the students as well as their personal profession.
3. Maximum doctors prefer the articles of e-journals on PDF file. The users basically access the e-journals from the central library and departmental library of JMC. The

users also access e-journals from their quarter as the doctors residence are within the college campus and it is connected by LAN and as well as Wi-Fi facility.

4. The users search their e-journals by using the keywords in search engines, through publisher's website and journal website. They retrieve the journals and keep in their respective storage devices or in PC/laptop drive. Users also take some e-journals article in hard copy form as it is easy to read at their working time also. It is not necessary to download or print the all articles and at that time the users just read on the screen of monitor and note down some main points as per need and their related information.
5. Doctors are very busy along with their profession and for that their time is too crisis to accessing the e-journals regularly. In some e-journals back issues and full text of the articles are not available only abstract and keywords are available so the users are depriving for accessing their accurate information. There is also downloading problems of e-journals for the poor network facility.
6. Users are satisfied in average for accessing the e-journals. Some users also highly satisfied in usages of e-journals as they get it more suitable than print journals.

## **CONCLUSION:**

E-journals have carried a great revolution towards the information society. Through the searching of e-journals user can retrieve their information easily. The information seeking behavior of scholars and users are changing in the electronic

environment. E-information resources in reality are the back bone of the users as well as their parent organizations. Doctors are considering the e-journals as one of the most creditable, supportive and efficient resource for retrieving the current and latest information of their respective subjects. E-journals are very convenient for each individual to cater the needs of developing and scattering information of various fields. The online learning is growing day by day at greater extent. It is also evident from the survey that e-journals have great impact on the academic community.

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