



SUBSCRIPTION OF E- JOURNALS PACKAGES IN ENGINEERING COLLEGES OF MAHARASHTRA STATE: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

Knowledge centers are the repositories of the intellect of ages stored in the form of recorded information for use of present and future generations to come. Digital technology has made it more easy, speedy and comfortable to apply the stored intellect. This collected information through the ages has to be used for further research, betterment and overall development of the society. This paper study based and tries to find fact in online journals subscription in a digital environment in the engineering college libraries of Maharashtra.

Key Words : Online Journals, Engineering College Library, Digitization, Consortium.

INTRODUCTION:

Due to the tremendous growth and continuous development of technology, the role of library becomes more responsive in making the users techno-savvy. Technological developments have affected not only the formats and sources of the information, but also how and where to provide library services. Libraries and their resources have partially moved to the virtual world of the Internet. As a result, library users can access the resources from outside the physical library. In an effort to reach users accessing the library via their computers, many libraries and library consortia.

Online-journals are important form among e-resources as these are very much useful in scholarly communication. E-journals can be accessed easily by multiple users at their desktops simultaneously with the support of required technology. Various researchers are getting more and more benefits by accessing required information from e-journals. Thus, e-journals have unsurprisingly proved a very beneficial and well liked tool for the scholarly community of every university for locating their desired information.

2.Types of E-Journals: “Producers take three board approaches with e journals an electronic only version of a new title, an electronic-only version of





a title converted from a paper version, and both an electronic and paper version". Various other authors have defined different types of e-journals they defined the following types of e-journals:

2.1. Internet Applications Electronic Journals or Classic Electronic Journals:

Some of the e-journals are available through Internet applications, which are also called classic e-journals. Originally, they were distributed via email but now are available on the web and only alerts of new issues are distributed by email. Access to this category of e-journals is free of cost.

2.2. Parallel Electronic Journals: These types of journals are published simultaneously in both print and electronic forms. The online version may include the full text of journal, only table of content, or selected articles from print versions. Sometimes the electronic version of the print differs from the print journal e.g. article may appear electronically before they are printed or the electronic version may have supplementary material on it.

2.3. Database model and software model: Another type of e-journal is called database model and software model. Under the database model articles reside in a centralized database maintained by the publisher and subscribers are given permission to access the database to locate and download articles.

2.4. CD-ROM journals: Commercial publishers have also made journal titles available on CD-ROMs.

3. Advantages of E-Journals: According to Morris, 2006 (quoted in Moghaddam and Shalini 2006, 2) there may be following five new capabilities for e-journals:

1. Ability to search for articles – at a minimum within one journal, and frequently across multiple journals.
2. Linking that refers to the ability to go from one place online to another, at a click of a button – the most common example being the link from a citation within the body of an article to the relevant reference at the end of the article, and from there to the actual article which is being referenced. Reference





linking in scholarly journals is now increasingly being undertaken using DOIs, which are unique identification codes assigned to online articles, and which provide permanent links for the user.

3. Electronic publications also make it possible to include material which researchers would not include in a print journal, either for space reasons or because the material is difficult, costly or even impossible to print.

4. Moving images, sound, or animations may also be included, although relatively few authors automatically think of providing such material at present and the technical complexities may outweigh the benefits.

5. The last additional capability is online publishing which may involve the ease with which authors can upload their content, and streamline their working practices. This can also be of great value to librarians so they can see how valuable their journals are to their users.”

4. Subscription of E- Journal Packages by Engineering College

Libraries of Maharashtra: E-journals are essential source of information and promote research and development activities. This swift growth of e-journals is obvious because of their several benefits over print journals. E-journals have various wonderful features and advantages over print journals i.e. easy to use, multi user accessibility, remote place accessibility, linking facility to other web contents. Due to these advantages and benefits the apex body or monitoring body of government of India AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) has mandatory to all engineering colleges to subscribe e-journals packages for that they provided the guidelines. As per AICTE guideline engineering college libraries of Maharashtra has subscribed following e-journals packages





E Journals Packages	Available	
	Yes (%)	No (%)
IEL Online	68 (58.12)	49 (41.88)
Springer Electrical, Electronics, Compt. Sci.	62 (52.99)	55 (47.01)
Wiley Blackwell Compt. Sci.	25 (21.37)	92 (78.63)
ASME	62 (52.99)	55 (47.01)
Springer Mechanical Eng.	23 (19.66)	94 (80.34)
Wiley Blackwell Mech. Eng.	17 (14.53)	100 (85.47)
ASCE	21 (17.95)	96 (82.05)
Wiley Blackwell Civil Eng.	18 (15.38)	99 (84.62)
J Gate Eng. And Tech.	88 (75.21)	29 (24.79)
Elsevier Science Direct	102 (87.18)	15 (12.82)
ASTM Digital Lib.	22 (18.80)	95 (81.20)

AICTE also provided the package options for subscription of journals. Table shows that out of 117 colleges 102 (87.18%) colleges have subscribed to the online journals published by the Elsevier Science Direct as their reputation in the engineering and technological research. In this package they provide near about 225 full text journals in the field of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical, Electronics, Civil, Aerospace, Biomedical, Industrial and Manufacturing and Telecommunication, Computer Science and Information Technology. Impact factor of maximum journals of this package are very high. After Science Direct colleges has subscribed the IEL (IEEE Electronic Library) online journals. This American society has published high impact factor journals;





reviewers of the journals are having authorities in the engineering and technological fields. Total 68 (58.11%) colleges subscribed this e- journals package. In this package 145 e journals are available with back files since 2000. Over one million documents are available in the package and more than 25000 new pages are added per month. Statistical test shows the non significant value which reveals that this subscription subscribed in less proportional. The third highest chosen online subscription journals package is American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Total 62 (52.99%) colleges subscribed those journals which are also in same rank as Springer Electronic, Electrical and Computer Science. Springer is the one of the world's leading interactive database for high quality journals, book series, online reference sources, e-books, and the online archives collection. They published 1200 peer reviewed journals but in this package 275 journals are available. ASME facilitates the development, dissemination and application of engineering knowledge through it's publication of 25 journals .It conducts one of the world's largest technical publishing operations, organize numerous technical conferences worldwide, and offers hundreds of professional development courses every year. In AICTE mandatory subscription of e-journals packages include JGATE Engineering and Technology (JET). In the JGATE it contains 4700 indexes and 1700 free full text journals in all the engineering branches. It offers Table of Contents, database searching, My TOC and resource sharing facility. Total 88 (75.2%) out of 117 colleges subscribed this package, due to availability of facility and coverage of all engineering branches. Maximum colleges borrow this package. In other packages Willey Blackwell for Computer Science, Data System and Telecommunication it is subscribed by 25(21.37%) library. Springer Mechanical Engineering 23(19.66%), Willey Blackwell Mechanical Engineering 17(14.53%), American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) 21(17.95%), Willey Blackwell Civil Engineering 18(15.38%) and ASTM Digital Library is subscribing by 22(18.8%) library.





CONCLUSION:

This greater than ever growth in electronic form of journals rather than print form actually shows the growing importance of e-journals in this ICT era. Keeping in view the increasing cost of e-journals and shrinking budget of libraries, it became necessary for every library to cooperatively work towards increasing their resource base and in this way emerged the consortia approach which has become quite successful due to its benefits for both the libraries and publishers. Mentioned table shows that maximum engineering colleges of Maharashtra subscribed e-journal package at least they subscribed one package in their library.

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