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# **Use and Impact of Electronic Journals among the Users of Periyar University in Salem, Tamilnadu, India**

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## **Abstract**

This study has made an attempt to examine the use and impact of electronic resources particularly electronic journals or e-journals among the user community of Periyar University at Salem. Periyar University Central Library subscribes a number of online journals to meet the information needs of its users such as faculty members, post graduate students and research scholars etc. The results showed that the maximum number of respondents was female with 58.33 percent whereas the minimum number of respondents was male. The highest number of age group is between 21-30 ages. The majority of users (40.38%) was postgraduate students and ranked first. Most of the respondents (47.44%) were preferred to access electronic journals whereas 19.87% of the respondents preferred print format, and 32.69% of the respondents preferred both forms of journals. It was found that the majority of respondents (40.39%) were using the central library to access online journals by weekly.

**Keywords:** Online Journals, Electronic Journals, e-journals, User survey, Periyar University, Salem, India.

## **Introduction**

We are living in the e-world with the advent of rapid growth and development of electronic and networking, the electronic resources and the use of digital technology as a tool is changing the way of teaching and research of the user society. The University Library facilitates a number of information resources and services to user society to think new knowledge and research. The electronic resources or digital resources are different kinds such as in the form of Electronic

conferences, professional and institutional websites, E-books, E-journals, Databases, CDs/DVDs, audios, videos, courseware, tutorials, guides, manuals, patents, Electronic preprints, and E-Prints, E-Reports, E-Maps, E-Pictures/Photographs, E-Manuscripts, E-Theses and Dissertations, projects, E-Newspaper, Internet/Websites - Listserv, Newsgroups, Subject Gateways, USENET, FAQs, Databases, Datasets, Digital Collections, etc. Hence, among the all the information resources or reading materials, journals play a vital role in recent research and avoid duplication toil of research.

A library consortium is one of the major implications of advanced technologies in Information Society for maximizing the availability of scholarly electronic resources and communications to higher education and research community. This innovative design has been successful in developed and developing countries providing the cost-effective information resources and services. The accessibility of electronic journals in University Libraries in India since 2003 as launched UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium. But, as far as the University concerned the subscription of journals, open access journals, and other subject related journals, and bibliographic databases would be differ. More than 7000 peer-reviewed and core collection of journals are provided by the UGC -INFONET Digital Library Consortium to access the latest and archives, and moreover, number of bibliographic databases. Electronic journal is one of the electronic resources which play a vital role in academic and research world without journals no research could be done easily and effectively.

Electronic journals are also known as e-journals or online journals, paperless journals, electronic serials, virtual journals, web journals, networked journals, scholarly electronic journals, digital journals, Zine or ezines, and Internet based journals. Electronic journals defined by McMillan (1991) as "any serials produced, published, and distributed via electronic networks such as Bitnet and the Internet." According to Wikipedia (2018), "online journal articles are a specialized form of electronic document: they have the purpose of providing material for academic research and study, and they are formatted approximately like journal articles in traditional printed journals." Harrods's Librarian's Glossary defined the e-journals as, "it is a journal for which the full end-product is available on optical disc, over a network or in any other electronic form, strictly a journal in which the entire process is carried out electronically." Ashcroft and Langdon (1993) pointed out about the e-journals as "a journals that is provided by any electronic means e.g. Internet or CD-ROM, although not necessary exclusive by electronic means" which is the most common definition. The electronic journals are accessed by way of electronic and telecommunication devices and the similar definition would be used for any electronic newspapers, newsletters, or any type of online periodicals too. E-journals contain multimedia information, timely access, searching capabilities, save physical storage space, not required physical assistance, and user friendly. There are two types of e-journals such as offline CD-ROM version, and Internet based or online journals and they are grouped in to four i.e. Classic e-journals or Internet e-journals, Parallel E- journals, Database Model and software Model, and CD-ROM journals.

### **Advantages of Electronic Journals**

Electronic journals are very useful for the future generation for their research and academic purpose. Because, some documents are more useful in the form of electronic version and

sometimes, e-journals is the only alternative to use as information base. In recent times printed materials are tremendously increasing due to ICT, but Libraries can offer only small part of it. Therefore, it is essential to provide electronic journals. Moreover, electronic journals are always available for patrons. Readers can view and access the electronic journals via network terminals when the library is closed and also invoicing and billing will be on-line. Electronic Journals also provides as follows.

- Speed of production and distribution
- Accessibility
- Subscription costs
- Economical
- No Fear of Loss
- Multimedia capabilities
- Internet and External links
- Seamless access

### **Limitations of E-Journals**

Albeit a number of advantages, there are some limitations are there in services of electronic journals if we subscribe in our Library as reported by Khan, 2012; Gurdev Singh, 2013.

- Though it is cost effective, the initial investment is very high
- Uncomfortable for sustained reading on computer screen.
- Organization getting difficult as different formats have different pricing schemes for selection and, use
- Involve legal copyright issues.
- The pricing scheme of some suppliers is very complicated
- E-journals and articles are not physically present in the library.
- Often not included in indexing & abstracting services.
- Publishers change their day to day terms & conditions.
- Possibility of data manipulation by unauthorized persons
- Lack of archiving and back files availability.
- Perishable citation: once printed, the details of paper journal remain constant.

To summarize, it can be clearly viewed that there are some ups and downs electronic journals are very useful to students, academicians, librarians and publishers as it can accessed around the clock across geographical barriers. The most important possibility is for librarians and users can overcome the problem of missing issues and get delay issues of journals.

## Literature Review

Numerous studies have been carried out by many scholars and scientists by various disciplines in different periods regarding the electronic journals or online journals but few of them were discussed in this research. Okogwu and Ekere (2018) carried out a study titled, 'Collection Development Policies of Electronic Resources in University Libraries in Southeast Nigeria' to analyze the various kinds of policies of electronic resources collection management practices, tools used, and to evaluate electronic resources which are available at the University Libraries in South East Nigeria. For data analysis, descriptive method was used and the results showed that the university libraries in South East Nigeria followed the traditional policy adopted for both prints and electronic information particularly in electronic journals, and also noted that there is no separate policy for electronic information resources. Nanda (2017) identified the use and awareness of electronic journals which was conducted through faculty members and research scholars at the Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology, Odisha. The study dealt with various aspects such as use of e-journals, place of searching, format preferences, and suggestions for improvements of e-journals. The major objective of this research was to determine the use and awareness of electronic journals by the faculty members and research scholars of VSSUT. A total number of 148 questionnaires were distributed and 115 filled in questionnaires returned from fourteen departments of VSSUT. The results reflect that the major proportion of faculty members (51.78%) and research scholars (54.23%) were using the electronic journals on daily, and huge number of 73.21% of the faculty members and 83.05% of the research scholars were using the online journals which were provided by the University Library for their research purpose. It was found that the small amount of 53.92% of the faculty members and 45.76% of the research scholars used the electronic journals for their career development.

Khan (2016) examined about the usage of UGC INFONET online journals consortium by the users of Gautam Buddha University. For data collection, only 90 multiple users had chosen using simple percentage method. The findings revealed that the maximum number of respondents was satisfied regarding the availability of electronic journals and usage. It is found that the most of the users preferred to use the online journals for their research. Nwaogu and Ifijeh (2014) surveyed the use of electronic journals by the lectures of University of Ibadan at Nigeria. It is known that this study was descriptive research and questionnaire method was adopted as tool for data collection. The sample of population was full of faculty members of the University of Ibadan. It is noted that four hundred and sixty seven well designed questionnaires were filled and returned. The results showed that the faculty members faced low bandwidth, very low electricity supply during the research. Velmurugan and Umamaheswari (2015) examined to identify the reading habits in the electronic age and the use of Internet in School Libraries at Chennai. The study showed that the majority of 49.35 percent of the respondents were well aware about the knowledge and awareness of online journals and had known that how to search and use the electronic journals effectively. It was also found that 20.78 percent of the respondents were aware of e-publishing. Kumar and Reddy (2014) carried out the study to identify the use of electronic journals through research scholars of three selected University Libraries of Sri Venkateswara University (SVU), Andhra University (AU), and University of Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh District. The study dealt with library reading materials especially electronic journals which were available in those university libraries. Further, types of journals, purpose, time spent, search techniques, identifying problems while accessing e-journals, level of

satisfaction, adequacy, and training etc. out of 4040 research scholars from three universities, a sample of 888 (18%) users were selected for analysis using stratified random sampling techniques. out of the total sample of respondents, 37.17% were from Andhra University, 34.0% of them were from Sri Venkateswara University, and 28.82% of them were from University of Hyderabad. the results showed that 66% of the respondents had 2 to 4 years experience in using computers and accessing Internet. 43.92% of the respondents use both print as well as electronic journals in all three universities. it is found that there was no significant difference between the man and women research scholars regarding form of journals for their research purposes. Velmurugan (2013) analyzed to investigate the usage and awareness of online journals among the undergraduate students of SIFT at Chennai. A sum of 175 questionnaires was distributed to each department and 126 filled in questionnaire returned. The findings of the study represented that 77.78percent of the users of SIFT were well aware about the electronic journals and 3.17% of the respondents were no idea about it. It was seen that almost more than fifty percent of the respondents were using the election journals on once in week whereas 7.14% of them were using occasionally.

Bansode (2013) examined the research on the use and impact of electronic journals which were available at the University of Pune Library. This study was to know the preference of electronic format of journals and the e-journals were which satisfy the information needs of the user community. To analyze, 300 well designed questionnaires were distributed and 264 returned. Among the respondents, 32.33% were faculties, 28% of them were research scholars, and 27.66% were post graduate students. the results show that positively 81.81% of the respondents given good sign that electronic journals has helped a lot to their academic purposes, and only 18.19% of the respondents felt that the impact of electronic journals was negative or positive. Ariffin and Abu Bakar (2013) investigated the usage of electronic journals among lecturers at public library during 2013. A total number of 55 academic lecturers were participated in this research through the questionnaire method which is widely popular among the research scholars. The main aim of this research was to identify the satisfaction level of academic lecturers about the online journals and to find out the suggestions which would develop and improve the utilization of electronic journals for their study purpose. On the basis of analysis, some suggestions was made by the respondents that trainings has to be organized by the faculty members and how to use the electronic journals effectively and some of them suggested that to conduct regular seminars, workshops regarding the online-search. Nisha and Naushed (2012) compared the electronic journals utilization through their study which was conducted the usage of electronic journals provided by the two different institutions such as IIT Delhi and Delhi University during 2011. This study was comparative and different research group. To know the usage of online journals, questionnaire survey selected and conducted among the two groups. The main purpose of this study was to identify the relevant information in terms of paper publication, preparing assignments, paper presentations, for conducting seminars, and to update knowledge. The results revealed that sixty three percent of the respondents use the electronic journals for their research in IIT Delhi whereas half of the users utilize the online journals for research in Delhi University. Shiful Islam et al. (2011) studied to examine the access and use of academic online journals by staff member as well as students at Dhaka University Library (DUL). The study had two types open-ended questionnaires were distributed to fifty users. It is found that out fifty users, thirty faculty members and twenty students category. It is focused the different aspects such as usage and the impact of online journals and the users opinions,

expectations, valuable suggestions and recommendations in order to provide the electronic journals services effectively in Dhaka University Library. Thanuskodi and Ravi (2011) aimed to analyze the electronic resources by the PG students and doctoral candidates of Faculty of Arts at the Annamalai University. 200 questionnaires were distributed and 180 were returned. The results showed that the huge number of users were well aware about the online resources which were available in the University Library. It is noted that almost fifty percent of the users tried to access only electronic format whereas the remaining of 40% of the user community preferred to read print journals.

Das and Sahu (2014) conducted the research regarding the awareness and utilization of electronic journals by the science research scholars of Utkal University from Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The study focused the current online information resources which were supported to the research group. For analysis purpose, the questionnaire method was used to gather appropriate data. The respondents from both fulltime as well as part time research scholars from various disciplines participated. The result findings indicated that most of the users were male and the remains were female. It is also found that the satisfaction level in terms of online journals, most of the users were fully satisfied. Amritpal Kaur (2011) reported the study about the impact and usage of online journals which were provided by the university libraries. The survey findings represented the impact of electronic journals in terms of subscription to online journals, space, time spend, faculty, services and usage, and the survey highlighted the impact of e-journals and its future. Chandrakumar (2009) reported the survey conducted on the use of electronic journals by the research scholars at the University of Madras. For data analysis, the questionnaire and interview techniques were used. It found that the maximum number of 72% of the research students responded, and among the respondents, 69% of them were male and the remaining 31% of them were female. It is also noted that most of the research scholars were using e-journals whereas the science students were using open access and consortia. The results showed that bibliographic databases were not preferred by the respondents during the research and e-books were used by them very less compared with online journals. For searching the relevant journals, keyword search were mostly preferred by the research scholars whereas content/topical search were not preferred, Boolean operators, phrase searching were rarely used, and nesting, truncation, controls, wildcard were never used.

We can conclude the literature view that libraries and R&D institutions all over the globe has witnessed the conversion phrase from print materials to electric version of journals. Therefore, this research has been chosen to identify the usage of online journals among the user community of the School of Physical Sciences at Periyar University as there is no such as study has been carried out so far in this aspect.

### **Profile of the Periyar University Central Library**

The Periyar University established in 17<sup>th</sup> September 1997 which is located at Salem. This University consists of four districts such as Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, and Krishnagiri. It has ranked 90<sup>th</sup> among Indian Universities by MHRD NIRF in 2018 and has occupied 12(B) and 2f status from the University Grants Commission, New Delhi. There are Twenty eight (28) departments and 101 affiliated colleges under Periyar University. For the present research, it has been selected only four departments i.e. Physics, Chemistry, Geology, and Energy studies under

the School of Physical Sciences. Among the four departments, Periyar University Geology department is one of the largest departments in this country. Moreover, the two departments Physics and Chemistry established in 2004 and the department of Geology in 2009 and the department of Energy Studies is the recent one which is established in September 2015.

Periyar University Central Library provides a number of sources and services to the user society. University Library offers digital library, subscribing online journals includes Journal of Educational Research, World Bank Economic Review, sage publications' journals, two publications package from Emerald publications covers 21 journals for marketing and 53 journals covers business, marketing and strategy. Four journals from World Scientific publications for Computer Science, and EBSCO Online database which has more than 2,150 full text journals back to 1886 in the field of Management, Commerce departments. Thirteen journals are from American Society of Microbiology (ASM) for the scholars of Bio-chemistry, Microbiology, and biotechnology. For Library and Information Science scholars, SREL Journal of Information Management journal full text archives from 1964 to 2011 which is published by Sarada Ranganathan Endowment. Further, more than 30 open access journals from familiar publishers such as Wiley online, Nature Publishing Group, DOAJ, Academic journals, Indian Academy of Science (IAS), Indian National Science Academy etc are providing access to the user community.

### **Statement of the problem**

The present research entitled, “Use and Impact of Electronic Journals among the Users of Periyar University in Salem, Tamilnadu, India” the need for the research is that the establishment of the school of Physical Sciences and the introduction of the departments such Physics, Chemistry, Geology, and Energy studies. This is the unique research as there is no such a study has been carried out to investigate their information needs on electronic journals and the seeking behavior of information so far.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to observe the challenges faced by the library users such as post graduate students, and faculty members who are in Physical Sciences department at Periyar University while using the online or electronic journals and to identify the suggestions which would improve and strengthen the utilization of e-journals for academic purposes. The other objectives are:

- To identify the usage of print as well as electronic journals among the user community of Physical sciences department in Periyar University.
- To know the frequency of use of library by the users of Physical sciences department in Periyar University.
- To observe the frequency of use of E- Journals among the users of Physical sciences department in Periyar University.



- To examine the average time spend on the use of electronic journals among the users of Physical sciences department in Periyar University.
- To find out the problems faced while accessing e-journals among the users of Physical sciences department in Periyar University.
- To recognize the opinion about the level of satisfaction with usage of e-journals among the users of Physical sciences department in Periyar University.

It is estimated that the present research will help other universities to recognize the need of electronic information resources particularly online journals, and motivate them to update and enhance their resources of the user category such as students, research scholars and faculty members.

### **Materials and Methods**

To fulfill the above said objectives of the study, the mandatory data was collected and entrenched in the questionnaire method from the user community. The selected departments are from the School of Physical Sciences are Physics, Chemistry, Geology, and Energy Studies. a total number of 200 questionnaire were distributed to all the four departments of school of physical sciences and returned only 156 filled questionnaire at the rate of 82 percent. The category of users is post graduate students, MPhil students, and Research scholars of the concerned departments. An attempt was made to execute the analysis of data that the survey method was used as it is the best statistical tool for large population of samples. We feel that this investigation is one of the first kinds of research in the department of Physical Sciences at this University after launching the UGC-INFOTECH Programme in this University Central Library. The study was limited to the faculty members, post graduate students, and research scholars from the school of physical science departments only since it is trouble-free to highlight the homogeneous group rather go for heterogamous group of user society.

### **Data Analysis**

Various kinds of questions like name, gender, age, educational qualifications were asked by the researchers during the research period. The survey based analysis of users in the School of physical Sciences departments at Periyar University is given below.

### **Distribution of questionnaire**

To analyze the data, the questionnaire method was used and distributed to selected four departments include Physics, Chemistry, Geology and Energy studies. A total number of two hundred questionnaires were distributed among the four departments and out of 200, we have received only 156 dully filled questionnaire at the rate 82%. It is identified among the four departments, Physics department has occupied first rank with 22% to fill the questionnaire and the least number of questionnaire filled by Energy Studies with 19.50%.

Table 1. Respondents' distribution according to the Department

S. No	Department	Questionnaire Distributed	Questionnaire Returned	Percentage
1	Physics	50	44	22.00
2	Chemistry	50	41	20.50
3	Geology	50	40	20.00
4	Energy studies	50	31	19.50
Total		200	156	82.00

### Category wise distribution

It is seen from the table 2 that indicates category wise distribution of respondents and what type of gender are participated and how much interested to participate in this research. As such table shows that maximum number of respondents is female with 58.33 percent whereas the minimum number of respondents is male with 41.67 percent.

Table 2. Respondents' distribution according to Category

S. No	Users Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	65	41.67
2	Female	91	58.33
Total		156	100

### Age wise distribution

Researchers asked the question what are the ages of respondents during the research and the table 3 shows the age wise distribution of four departments and the results reveals that the respondents age is between 18-20 were 21.15 percent and the between 21-30 were 37.18 percent, and the age between 31-40 were 23.72 percent of respondents and only 17.95 percent of age group were above 41 age. The results show that maximum number of age group is between 21-30 ages.

Table 3. Respondents' distribution according to Age

S. No	Users Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	18-20	33	21.15
2	21-30	58	37.18
3	31-40	37	23.72
4	Above 41	28	17.95
Total		156	100

### User wise distribution

It is seen from the below table 4 and shows the various kinds of user category participated in this research. They were faculty members, postgraduate students, MPhil Students, and PhD Scholars. It is identified from the study that the majority of users (40.38%) were postgraduate students and

ranked first and followed by MPhil students were in the second position with 26.92 %. the another category was faculty members with 18.59% and the last category was PhD Scholars with 14.11%.

Table. 4. Different kinds of users

S. No	Users	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Faculty	29	18.59
2	PG Students	63	40.38
3	MPhil Students	42	26.92
4	PhD Scholars	22	14.11
Total		156	100

### Preference of journals

Preference of journals is an essential characteristic in this research so as to measure what type of journals users preferred. Hence, the below table 5 indicates the various kinds of preference of journals such as print journals and online journals and both. Most of the respondents (47.44%) were preferred to access electronic journals whereas 19.87% of the respondents preferred print format, and 32.69% of the respondents preferred both forms of journals during the research.

Table.5. Preference of journals

S. No	Journals preference	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Print	31	19.87
2	Online	74	47.44
3	Both	51	32.69
Total		156	100

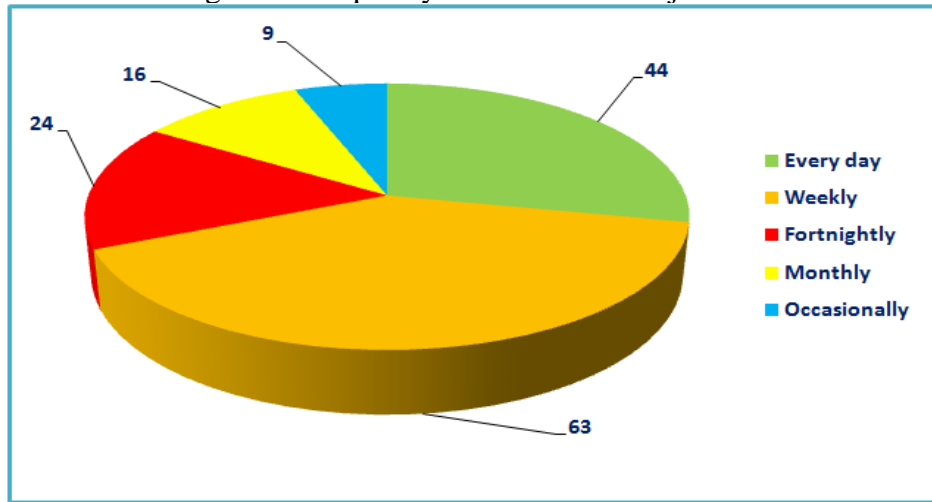
### Frequency use of Electronic journals

The frequency use of journals is also is one of the important variables for this research. Table 6 and figure 1 depicts that the frequency such as daily, weekly, fortnightly, monthly and occasionally. It is analyzed the maximum number of respondents (40.39%) were using the central library to access online journals by weekly, and followed by 28.21% of respondents were using the digital library to look at the electronic journals by daily. only 5.78% of the respondents were accessing online journals occasionally.

Table.6. Frequency use of Electronic journals

S. No	Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Every day	44	28.21
2	Weekly	63	40.39
3	Fortnightly	24	15.37
4	Monthly	16	10.25
5	Occasionally	9	5.78
Total		156	100

Figure.1. Frequency use of Electronic journals



### Average time spending on use of Electronic journals

Table 7 represents the average time spending on using the online journals by the respondents which are available in the central library. It is noted most of the respondents (40.39%) preferred to access the online journals between 1- 2 hours, and followed by 28.21% of the respondents were using digital library to seeing online journals within ‘an hour’, and the small percentage of (10.25%) respondents were using library to watch the electronic journals above 3 hours.

Table.7. Time spending on use of Electronic journals

S. No	Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	An hour	44	28.21
2	Between 1-2 hours	63	40.39
3	Between 2-3 hours	24	15.37
4	Above 3 hours	16	10.25
Total		156	100

### Location of using Electronic journals

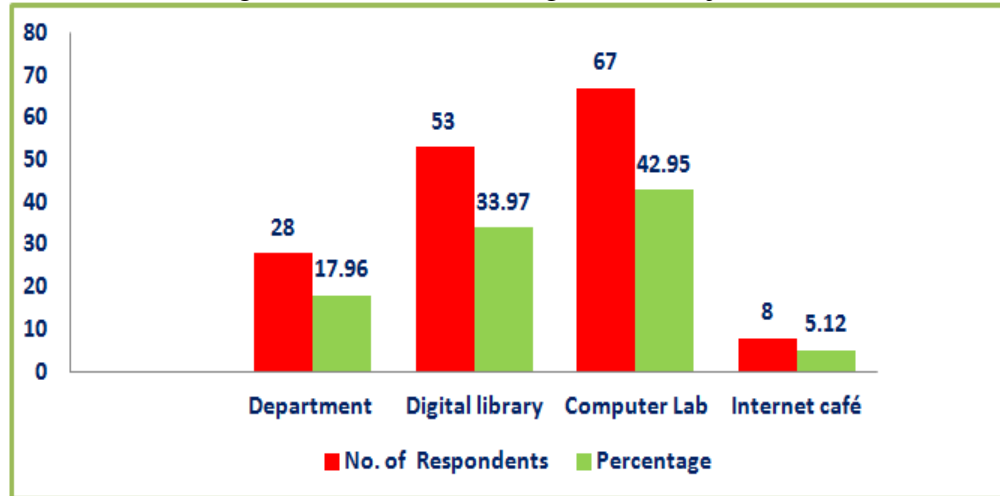
Table 8 and figure 2 represents about the place of using online journals by the respondents where they are studying. Among the 156 respondents, 42.95% of users were using in their Computer Lab, and followed by 33.97% of the respondents were choosing to access online journals at Digital library. 17.96 percent of the respondents were accessing electronic journals at their department and only 5.12% of the users were from Internet Café.

Table.8. Location of using Electronic journals

S. No	Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Department	28	17.96
2	Digital library	53	33.97

3	Computer Lab	67	42.95
4	Internet café	8	5.12
Total		156	100

Figure.2. Location of using Electronic journals



### Purpose of using Electronic journals

Table 9 shows what purpose the respondents are using the electronic journals during the research. It is found that among the 156 respondents, the majority of (35.26%) users for preparing research articles for publication to show their research performance in their study. 23.72 percent of the user community was for submitting their assignments in their academic purpose, and followed by 15.38% of the respondents were preferred to study purpose. Users for taking seminars and knowledge updating were 13.46% and 12.18% respectively.

Table.9. Purpose of using Electronic journals

S. No	Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	For study purpose	24	15.38
2	Fro taking seminars	21	13.46
3	For submitting assignments	37	23.72
4	For preparing articles for publication	55	35.26
5	For knowledge updating	19	12.18
Total		156	100

### Level of satisfaction

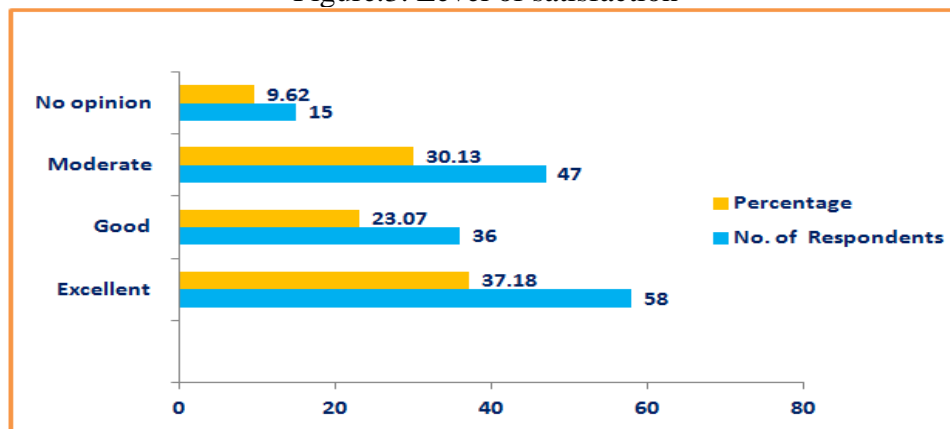
Respondents asked the question by the researchers about the level of satisfaction regarding the online journals service and access which are provided by the central Library at University. The satisfaction level in terms of availability of electronic resources particularly electronic journals has been evaluated as such the below table and figure indicates that the huge number of 37.18% of the respondents had felt 'Excellent' , and followed by 30.13% of the respondents were with

‘Moderate’ satisfaction, 23.07% of them were ‘Good,’ and 9.62% of the respondents had ‘No opinion’.

Table.10. Level of satisfaction

S. No	Satisfaction Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Excellent	58	37.18
2	Good	36	23.07
3	Moderate	47	30.13
4	No opinion	15	9.62
Total		156	100

Figure.3. Level of satisfaction



### Problems faced while accessing Electronic journals

Researchers asked the question from respondents during the survey in terms of any problems faced while accessing the online journals such as connectivity, downloading, lack of training, etc. Table 11 shows among the 156 respondents, the majority of them (33.33%) faced lack of knowledge and training to access the electronic journals as they do not aware of online information resources. Followed by 29.49% of the users felt that information overload, and 22.44% of the respondents had faced too much of time taking while download the articles. Some of them (14.74%) felt that there was no proper connectivity.

Table.11.Problems faced while acceding Electronic journals

S. No	Facing difficulties	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	No proper connectivity	23	14.74
2	Take much time for downloading	35	22.44
3	Overload of information	46	29.49
4	Lack of knowledge and training to access e-journals	52	33.33
Total		156	100

## **Major Findings**

Based on the research, the major findings are as follows:

1. It is seen that maximum number of respondents is female with 58.33 percent whereas the minimum number of respondents is male.
2. It shows that the highest number of age group is between 21-30 ages among the user community during the research.
3. It finds that the majority of users (40.38%) was postgraduate students and ranked first.
4. Most of the respondents (47.44%) were preferred to access electronic journals whereas 19.87% of the respondents preferred print format.
5. The maximum number of respondents (40.39%) was using the central library to access online journals by weekly.
6. Most of the respondents (40.39%) preferred to access the online journals between 1- 2 hours.
7. 42.95% of users were using in their Computer Lab, and followed by 33.97% of the respondents were choosing to access online journals at Digital library.
8. The majority of (35.26%) users for preparing research articles for publication to show their research performance in their study.
9. The huge number of 37.18% of the respondents had felt 'Excellent', and followed by 30.13% of the respondents were with 'Moderate'.
10. The majority of them (33.33%) faced lack of knowledge and training to access the electronic journals as they do not aware of online information resources.

## **Discussion and Conclusion**

Online journals or electronic journals play a vital role in the scholarly research throughout the world. Indian Universities are one the leading and largest higher education system in the world and provide scientific research by eminent scholars and scientists. We can say without any doubt, it is a big challenge to research group and academic community to make sure electronic journals and providing effectual channels of communications among the research institutions and scholarly communities. This study tried focus the various dimensions such as category wise distribution, Age wise distribution, User wise distribution, Preference of journals, Frequency use of Electronic journals, Average time spending on use of Electronic journals, Location of using Electronic journals, Purpose of using Electronic journals, Level of satisfaction, and Problems faced while accessing Electronic journals.

In this context, some related research was discussed which were carried by different scholars and scientists in terms of electronic journals awareness and utilization in different period. Baladhandayutham (2016) examined with faculty and research scholars at Madurai Kamaraj University, and found that 85.5% of the respondents accessed open access journals and nearly 79% of the respondents accessed e-journals daily. It also found 91% of the users utilize e-journals for preparing their journal articles and almost 68 percent of the respondents felt that e-journals are very useful for academic purpose. Another study conducted by Millawithanachchi (2015) at the Main Library of University of Colombo to examine the user's opinion about the usage of print as well as online journals with 278 students. The results showed that the respondents had given the equal importance and preference to both print and electronic format of the academic journals. Thanuskodi and Ravi (2011a) investigated at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in Tirunelveli with faculty members and research scholars during 2011. The findings of the study revealed that 67.14% of the faculty members are popular with online information resources and most of them used the online journals for self-study. Moreover, Sudhier (2011) analyzed the importance of academic journals for librarians as well as publishers. The study discussed in terms of Indian consortia initiatives such as INDEST, FORSA, UGCINFONET, N-LIST, and CSIR e-journal consortia, DRDO, ICMR, HELINET, Space Net of ISRO, CeRA of ICAR, MCIT Library Consortium and IIM Consortium. It was found that those initiatives would be helpful for research scholars and library professionals who are involved in LIS research. Nisha and Naushad Ali (2002) examined to identify the use of e-journals by IIT, Delhi and Delhi University and found nearly 40% of the users from IIT and more than 60% of the users from Delhi University preferred that training programmes would enhance electronic journals use. Antoir (2001) reported through the study conducted on electronic journals in small libraries and found the older people were preferred only printed papers and they were not interested to read in the form of electronic version. Monopoli et al (2002) conducted under the case study and identified that a large amount of frequently using online journals by the user community were the age between 21 and 34. Dilhon and Hahn (2002) examined to know about the various forms of using journals and identified that the majority of 70% of the faculty members required journals in both print and electronic version and few of the faculty members preferred only in electronic journals. Tenner and Yang (1999) investigated that the huge number of 44.7% of the users were assistant professors using e-journals, and followed by 34.5% of the users were professors and 34.2% of the respondents were associate professors. Another study conducted by Tommy and Burton (1998) and found more than fifty percent of the faculty members under the age group of forty using electronic journals and only 14 percent of the users were the age of above 40, and also found more than 80 percent of the respondents represented that using online journals would help in future.

Electronic Journals or Online journals act as a effective tool to meet information needs of the user community such as students, research scholars and faculty members whereas budget allocation, changing price models, and license agreements have made library collection policy as a problematic issues. To overcome such types of issues for subscription of e-resources especially electronic journals and their effective usage, LIS Professionals should take necessary steps to access the usage of electronic journals. Thus, this study shows the use of electronic journals among the research scholars and faculty members of Periyar University, Salem. The results of the study confirmed that the usage level of electronic journals is high at the Periyar University in the school of Social Science departments. We can conclude, based on the findings of the



research, that there is awareness about the access of electronic journals at the Periyar University Central Library, but, the frequency of usage among the faculty members as well as students and research scholars is low, as there is lack of knowledge and training to access of electronic journals. Hence, Librarian has to take and provide proper training and workshops should be conducted to now and then to learn about the online journals and their utilization for research and academic purpose.

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