

Characteristics Of E-Journals;Its Advantages And Disadvantages: A Study

7

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Introduction:

As the heart of India dwells in the villages similarly library is a pulsing heart of an academic institution. Academic library is of the following kinds i.e (a) School Library, (b) College Library. (c) University Library.

We are entering an 'e' lingua-where 'e; electronic' gets cut down to size in a selection of 'e'- words that don't trip easily off the tongue. There's the e-book, e-zine, e-journals and e-newspaper(the content);the e-reader (the hardware);and the e_ink and e-paper that carry the imprints. And just to get all the cringing over in one go, some people are calling paper-based edition 'P-books' The word 'e-journal comprises two words i.e editions 'P-books' The word 'e-journal comprises two words i.e. 'e' and 'journal', here 'e' is an abbreviation which stands for daily or electrical and the word 'journal' is a magazine i.e means a journal which one can read on the internet.

According to Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary the meaning of "e-journal is a journal that is available on the computer through internet."

The Glasgow University Library defines for its reader as "any journal that is available over the internet can be called an 'electronic journal'. An electronic imprint is digitized content

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designed to be read on a computer screen or a dedicated hand-held machine. It can be bought direct from a website or from a traditional book shop.

e-journals-Print media to electronic media i.e. CDs, e-journals, e-books, e-mails.

Background:-

The first periodical was appeared in 1665 was 'Journal des Scaving'. In 1787' Asiatic Researches was started by Asiatic Society of Bengal, India.

e-journal periodical published in e-text. The first-journal 'On Line Journal of Clinical Trials' (OJCT) accessed in 1990.

Types of e-Journals:-

(a) E-Journal on CD-ROMS; (b) On Line Journal; (c) On Line Journals with print Copy, it may be either free or at some nominal charges; (d) On Line indexing and abstracting journals.

The first of these development is the CD-ROM (Compact disk Read-only memory), an optical disk with a storage capacity of 55. million Bytes (characters), the equivalent of 2,75,000 pages of printed matter. CD-ROM is slowly becoming an electronic publishing medium and has the potential of providing cost-effective access to large quantities of information using a desktop micro-computer and a relatively inexpensive CD-Rom player.

Need ForE-Journals :

- Traditional method for handling the information are inadequate due to high growth rate of information;
- Difficult to update the information due to voluminous increase and rise in the degree of specialization involved;
- Techniques are suggested for applying the computers with its advantages of speed, vast storage capacity and accuracy to library work;
- The need for co-operation and resource sharing and the hope of achieving some savings through automation made to switch over to automation;

- Operational advantages-
- Offer flexibility,
- Speed up processing and work flow,
- Greater accuracy, efficiency, consistency and improved work control,
- Reduces repetitive clerical work,
- Permits ease of bibliographical control checking and updating.
- Permits improved budget control so we can say that Librarian can use the techniques of automation but also to aware of the changes automation can bring to library service.

5. Characteristics of E-Journals

- Immediate access to high demand and frequently used items,
- Information is stored in data format,
- Easier access to individual components within items (e.g. an article of the journal),
- Rapid access to the required material,
- The ability to enhance digital images in terms of size sharpness, colour, contrast etc,
- The potential to conserve fragile/precious originals while presenting surrogate in more accessible forms,
- Enhanced search ability including full text,
- Intergration of different media i.e. images, sounds, videos etc.,
- Reducing the problem of cost of delivery.

6. Requirements for E-Journals :

- Finance; (b) ICT Infrastructure; education and training of users and the library staff, agreement for licencing and copyright laws.

Ways to Acquire E-Journals :

- Individual library approach,
- Consortia approach-Here several Libraries make a group and subscribe the journals at cost sharing bases.

Consideration For Subscription of Journals :

- Authenticity of publication,
- Subject coverage,
- Content quality,
- Fulfilling the requirement of the readers,
- Time bound

Advantage of E-Journals :

- Accessibility by multiple users at the same time irrespective of the time and space;
- Relevant as well as specific i.e. pin pointed information/reference is provided;
- Optimises research and development activities;
- Make the library to be accessed round the clock through networking;
- Solve problems i.e. time, space and energy of the library staff;
- Promote distance education;
- Improve the image of the library and library professionals;
- Also create user's friendly environment;
- Shorten the chain from content creator to content user;
- Automatic alerting-staff to ask if the latest edition of the journal is available;
- No threat of mutilation or tearing of pages;
- Present them in multiple formats;

Disadvantage of E-Journals :

- Too much expensive;
- on reliability of electronic media;
- Threat to intellectual property right;
- Lack of expertise on the part of users and library staff;
- Adverse effects on user's health

Conclusion:-

Electronic publishing which describes the use of Computers for the publication of various forms of literature is still in its infancy although it has spawned at least one specialist journal Electronic Publishing Review.

Professor F.W. Lancaster of University of Illinois has written much in recent years on the evolving paperless society and the implication of this for libraries and Librarians.

Grosch describes the likely evolution of CESS (Comprehensive Electronic Service System) which she envisages as a linkage of traditional bibliography transaction processing and the emerging advanced office systems.

Moreover e-journal is the kind of the paperless society and it has a golden future.

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