ATTITUDE OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS TOWARDS E-JOURNALS IN PANJAB UNIVERSITY

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Abstract: Electronic journal are the core asset of the research in any academic institution. Electronic journal have changed the whole scenario of research in Indian higher education system. It is good to see the dedicated e-databases of various disciplines now a day. During the last decade a revolution has happened in electronic publishing. Journal publishing agencies are more concentrating on electronic version and minimizing the print mode. But it is the matter of visualization that how much our academic fraternity is benefited in this environment of diversification.

Keywords: E-Journals, Teachers, Panjab University

1.0 Introduction

It is obvious that e-resources showed the new directions to each and every field the society and journey is still continued. Electronic resources make the ways to reach out the information that may be restricted to the user because of physical barrier. Through their various search techniques, electronic resources provide extensive links to explore additional resources or related content. Presently there is boom of e-journals but coming time will be focused on e-books. Inflibnet has the sole responsibility to fulfill the e-journal demand of the Indian higher education system. Inflibnet provides a core collection of the e-resources to the member libraries. E-journals are the backbone of research in college and university system, which is leading the education to the new heights. The major beneficiaries of e-journals are the teachers and research scholars, who directly remain involve in research. With the emergence of new technology, there always remain the various challenges to face. Present study is an effort to find out the attitude of social scientists towards e-journals in Panjab University.

2.0 Review of Literature

A number of studies have been carried out on various aspects of e-journals in academic institutions, some of the relevant studies are discussed as under:

Woorward (2001) looked at factor that compounds the complexity of journals acquisitions and managing focusing on the need to adhere to standards, protocols and licensing. Kennedy (2004) discussed that the integrated access to various e-journals is also a significant issue. Aschroff (2004) suggested the probable advantage of e-journals, with quick access of e-publication, space saving and lower cost. Ali and Satyanaryana (2002) found that Boolean operators followed truncation and wilds are most popular search facility among respondents of science and technology. It is recommended that training to the users is essentials for better use of e- resources. Hiom (2004) experimented that students prefer to use e- journals for their research work and feel satisfying while make the use of these resources. Study recommended that web needs to be much more structured and rigorous, which can provide right track to the research. Ali (2005) conducted a study on e-resources usage at IIT Delhi and found that e-resources play a major role in research. But, respondents opined that there is difficulty because of the lack of printing facilities and inadequate number of terminals, which discourages them from accessing e-journals. Madhusudhan (2008) in his study showed that there is an ever increasing demand for subscriptions of more e-journal titles. Study suggested some need for academics to be provided with training in using e-journals which is supported by majority of respondents.

3.0 Background

A.C. Joshi Library, Panjab University, Chandigarh is fully computerized with RFID and integrated system connected to the campus network. The reference collection of the library is continuously updated, and augmented with the acquisition of CD–ROM database and access to on-line database. Library collection can also be searched

through Web OPAC. A digital lab has been set up on the ground floor of the library for accessing on e-journals, made available through e-Shodhsindhu consortia.
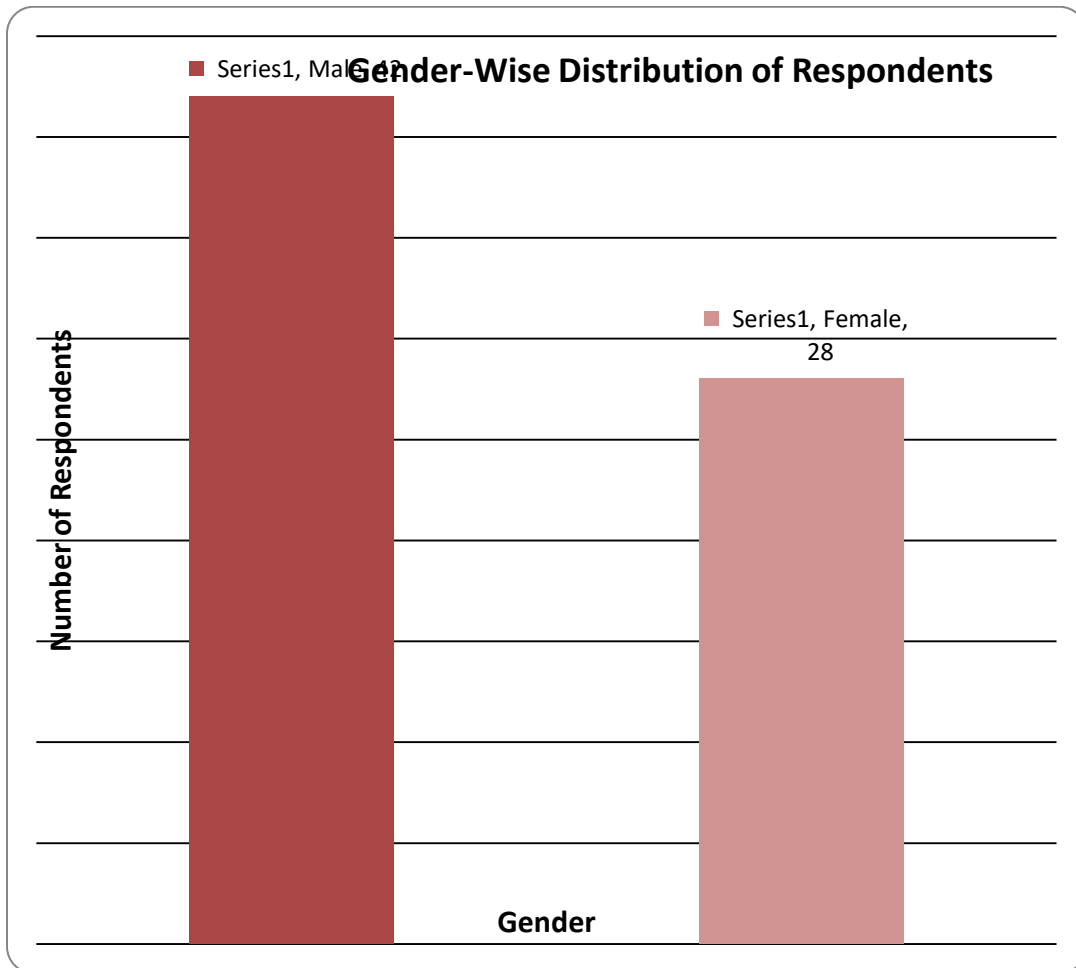
4.0 Objectives of the study

1.   To study the usage of different types of e-journals by the teachers of social sciences at Panjab University Chandigarh.
2.   To find the hindrance and problems faced by the teachers and suggest suitable solutions to improve the e-journals and services for the benefit of faculty members.
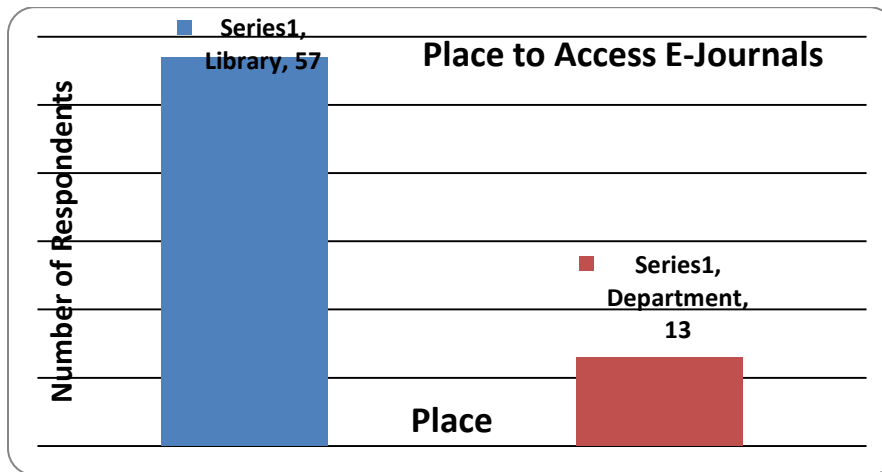
5.0 Research Methodology

A questionnaire was designed for the faculty members to know the attitude towards e-journals. The primary data was collected from the faculty members of Social Sciences. Total 82 questionnaires were distributed to the teachers of the different departments of social sciences in Panjab University, Chandigarh and 70 duly filled up questionnaires were received back, out of these no questionnaire was found unusable. Thus 70 Questionnaire were found usable and valid. The response rate is 85.36%.

6.0 Discussion and Interpretation

Figure-1 Gender-Wise Distribution of Respondents

Figure-1 shows that number of responses received on gender basis, it reveals that 42(60%) respondents were male and 28(40%) respondents were female.
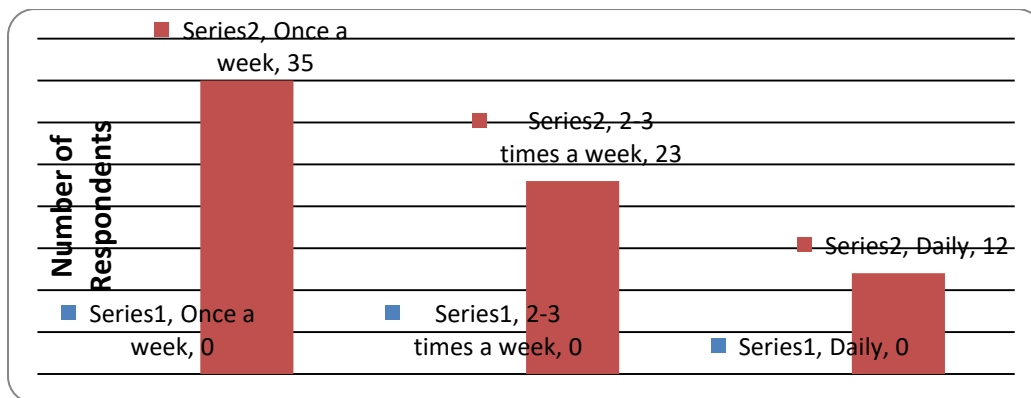

Figure–2 Place to Access Electronic Journals

Figure–2 reveals that 57(81.42%) faculty members access Electronic Journals at central library and 13(18.57%) respondents access e-journals in their respective departments. It shows library is much preferred and sportive in compare to department.

Table–1 Purpose to Use Electronic Journals

S. No.	Purpose	Responses
1.	Writing Paper	70 (100%)
2.	Projects	50 (71.42%)
3.	Research Work	70 (100)
4.	Preparing Notes	65(92.85%)
5.	Seminar	3 (4.28%)

Table-1 shows that the purpose of use of Electronic Journals among the faculty members of social sciences. Writing papers and research work is preferred by the highest number of the respondents with 70(100%) responses and subsequently for preparing notes and projects with 65(92.85%) and 50(71.42%) responses respectively. Only 3(4.28%) respondents use Electronic Journals for seminar purpose. As per the results revealed from table-1, teachers are getting maximum benefit of e-journals in technical writing.

Figure 3 Electronic Journal Usage Frequency

Figure-3 shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 35(50%) use electronic journals once in a week. 23(32.85%) teachers use electronic journals 2-3 times a week. only 12(17.14%) respondents make the use of e-journals on daily basis.

Table-2 Electronic Research Paper/Article Consultation per Week

S. No.	E-Research Paper	Respondents
1.	1-2	5 (7.14%)
2.	3-5	61 (87.14%)
3.	6-10	4 (5.71%)

Table-2 shows that 61(87.14%) respondents consult 3-5 electronic research papers in a week. 5(7.14%) teachers consult only 1-2 research papers in a week. Only few teachers consult 6-10 research papers in a week i.e. 4(5.71%). Result shows that only few of the faculty members are involve in some major research project.

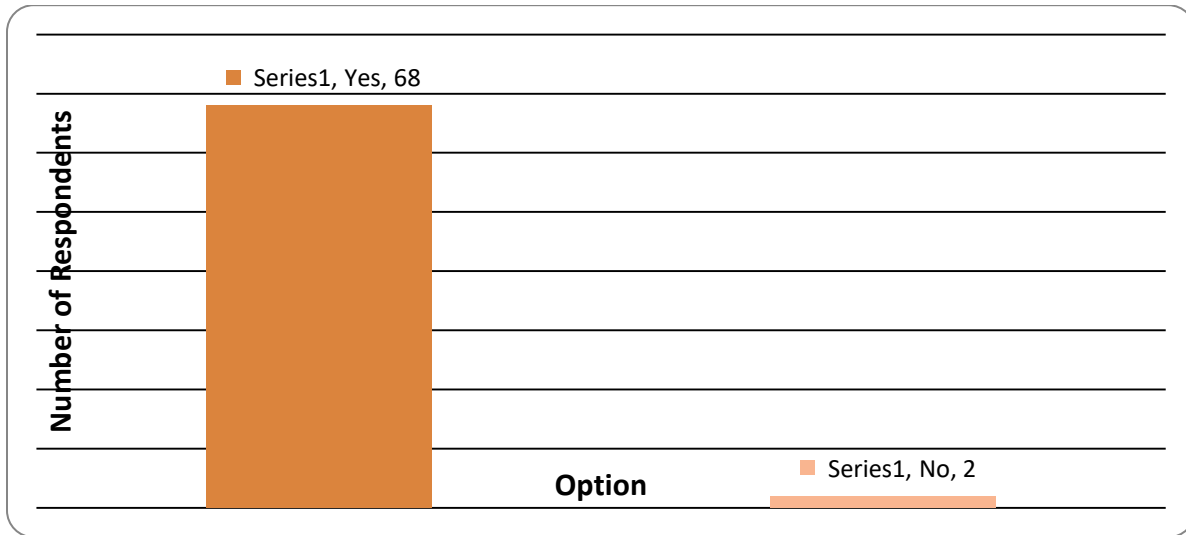### Table-3 Printed Journals Features

S. No.	Features	Very Important	Natural	Irrelevant
1.	No Archive Problem	70 (100%)	0	0
2.	Paper Copy Easy to Read	68(97.14%)	2 (2.84%)	0
3.	Paper Copy Portable	70 (100%)	0	0
4.	Issue Readily Available	70 (100%)	0	0

Table-3 shows that printed journals features such as achievable problem, paper copy easily portable and issue readily available in library are still very important issues among respondents. 100% teachers feel that they do not face archive problem, it means they can get easy access of the previous issues of any particular journal. 100% respondents believe that paper copy is portable and readily available. Easy to read is choice very important by 68(97.14%) respondents, they believe in leisure reading.

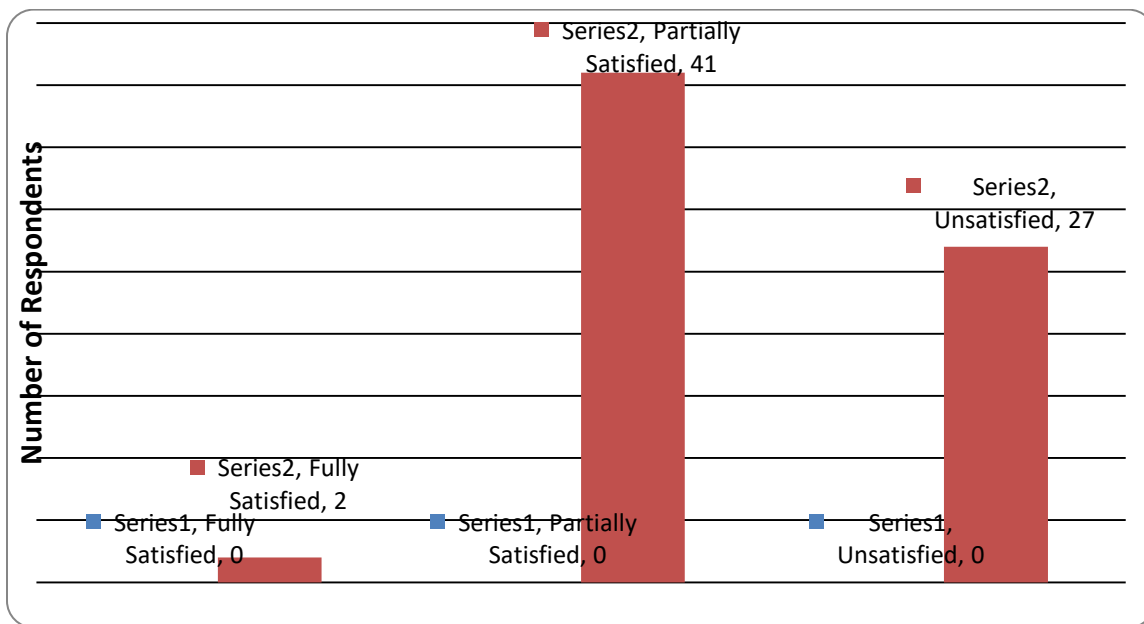### Table-4 Electronic Journals Features

S. No.	Features	Very Important	Natural	Irrelevant
1.	Available on Desktop	66 (94.28%)	4(5.71%)	0
2.	Speed of Publication	68 (97.14%)	2 (2.85%)	0
3.	Search is Easy	63 (90%)	3 (4.28%)	4 (5.72%)
4.	Hyperlinks to Reference	66 (94.28%)	4 (5.71%)	0
5.	Graphic Capability	47 (67.14%)	13 (18.57%)	10 (14.28%)
6.	Access from Different Locations	7 (10%)	57 (81.42%)	6 (8.57%)
7.	Time Access Availability	64 (91.42%)	3 (4.28%)	3 (4.28%)
8.	Full Text	67 (95.71%)	3 (4.28%)	0
9.	Downloading Facility	26 (37.14%)	45 (64.28%)	2 (2.85%)
10.	Archival Facility	26 (37.14%)	31 (44.28%)	13 (18.57%)
11.	Easy Accessibility	61 (87.14%)	7 (10%)	2 (2.85%)

Table-4 shows that speed of publication of Electronic Journals is considered very important by 68(97.14%) respondents, followed by full text feature with 67(95371%) responses. The other important features chosen very important by respondents is availability on desktop and hyperlinks to reference with 66(94.28%), responses each respectively. Table-4 depicts that major issues like archival facilities is considered irrelevant by 13(18.57%) respondents and downloading facility is considered neutral by 45(67.28%) respondents.
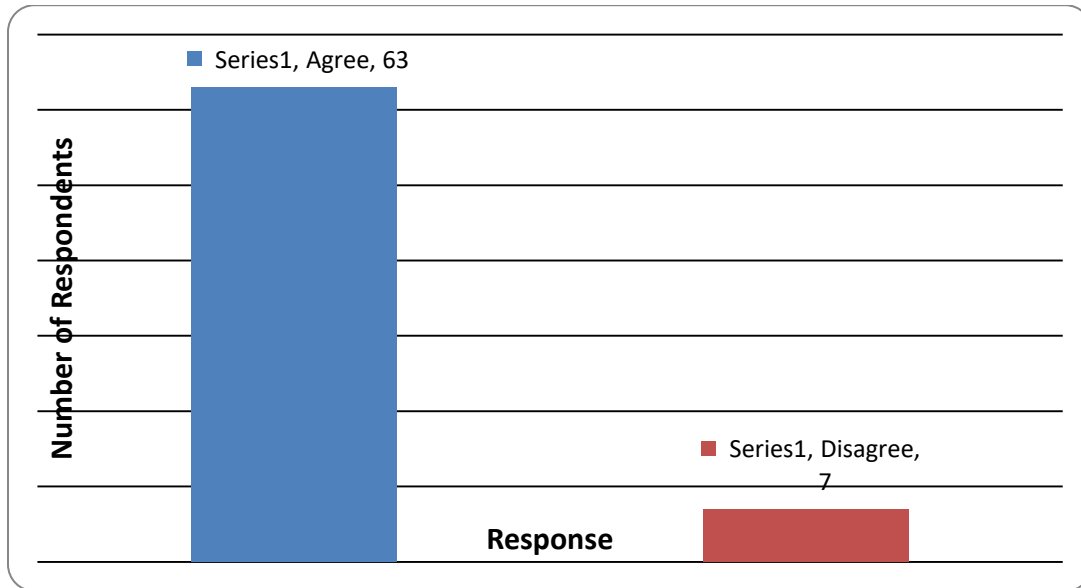
Figure 4 Training Taken for Use of Electronic Journals

Figure-4 shows that 68(97.14%) respondents have taken training provided by library for use of Electronic Journals whereas 2(2.85%) respondents have denied for the same.

Figure-5 Satisfaction Towards Infrastructure Provided By The Library

Figure-5 shows that 41(58.57%) respondents are partially satisfied with infrastructure provided by library for using electronic journals and 27(38.57%) respondents are unsatisfied with the facilities. 2 (2.85%) faculty members are fully satisfied with the existing infrastructure in the library of Panjab University.

Figure-6 Replacement of Printed Journals by Electronic Journals

Figure-6 shows that majority 63(90%) of the respondents feel that electronic journals will replace the print journals whereas 7(10%) respondents disagree with the concept. Responses from figure-6 indicate that print journals will be disappeared soon.

7.0 Conclusion

The dependability on electronic mode of working has increased the use of electronic journals. Each and every sphere of research demands electronic version of journal. But e-version expects the perfection for desired results. Training taken is major advantage in using electronic journals, hence a proper training need to be provided for better assessment of electronic journals. Advertisement, awareness programme and hand on experience need to be organised at regular intervals by the library. Need to depute more trained and skilled staff, who are well aware of the functioning of both software and hardware to help the users in downloading and retrieving the desired contents.

8.0 References:

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