

## Electronic Journals: an Overview



### Library Science

**KEYWORDS :** on line journals, Web journals, Digital journal, E-journals.

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### ABSTRACT

*The modern libraries are growing up with e-content to meet the demand of users. Information and technology has brought phenomenal change in information collection, preservation and dissemination scene of the world. The article depicts objectives, features, and characteristics of E-journals. It highlights advantages and disadvantages of E-journals, discusses role of National Agency in usages of E-journals.*

#### I. INTRODUCTION

According to Gail MacMillan , “ E-journals are Serials produced, published and distributed nationally and internationally via electronic network such as binet and Internet.”<sup>1</sup>Technological revolution has made tremendous impact on the way information is processed stored, retrieved and disseminated. Traditional libraries have become e-libraries. Majority of the sources of information, especially journals are now available on electronic media like on line, cd-rom and Internet.

Electronic. journals have lessen the use of paper. E-journals are very helpful in handling complex data, tables, moving pictures, sound, images and video clips. The 1st scientific E-journal came out in 1992 under the title of “journal of current clinical trial”.

Electronic journals are periodical that are made available as individual titles via electronic medium, typically the world wide-Web. Today, most of the e-journals appear as parallel version of their print counterpart

#### II. Objectives

- 1) To keep Researchers abreast with latest researches in their field of interest.
- 2) To save the time of users as well as staff.
- 3) To make information available speedily to the users.
- 4) To encourage research work in all fields.

#### III. . FEATURES OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

- « Electronic journals can be accessed round the clock across geographical barriers, which make E-journals omnipresent.
- « The E-journals get published or reach the subscribers much before their counterparts.
- « They can be accessed by more than one person at a time
- « Article can be downloaded and printed simultaneously by more than one reader.
- « Electronic journals offset the missing issue problems. If a particular volume of print version of the journal is not complete, can be downloaded, printed all the articles available online or can be saved in digital format.
- « E-journals also includes multimedia and graphics and text search is much easier and less cumbersome.
- « E-journals are better for the environment, by reducing the space, dust and air pollution.
- « The hypertext available in the e-journals will directly link to the areas of great interest and results in creative reading.
- « Electronic journals publications provides online submission of manuscripts and also facilitates to keep track of the submitted manuscripts with the reference number.
- « It reduces the time of publication of manuscripts.
- « The contents of the electronic journals can be reproduced, reforwarded, modified, leading to possible problems with copyright protection.

- « Enable information to be delivered to the users.
- « Provides interactive environment for the users.

#### Iv. Characteristics of E-journals

##### ü Acebility :

- 1) E-journals can be easily accessible on net. Articles can be copied in floppy cds and printed form. They facilitate browsing at cited references and related topics. Through keyword searching reference link and cross referenc

##### ü Cost factor

cost effectiveness for users as well as the e-zine publishers

##### ü Time factor

Latest issues of E-journals take very less time to come out.

##### ü Evaluation

Statistics about number of downloaded articles can be found by aggregator and publisher.

##### ü Attractive format

Articles can be presented in a very attractive manner using coloured pictures, sound, animation, images. E-journals can be presented in pdf, xml and postscript.

##### ü Space saving

E-journals save the space in the library by relieving them from storage space problems and regular maintenance required.

#### V. Advantages of E-journals

- E-journals provide easy access to articles around the globe.
- Save publishers times and efforts in performing their activities.
- Relieve the libraries from storage space problems and regular maintenance required.
- In some cases subscription cost of e-journals are much less than those associated with producing paper journals.
- The archivist become able to maintain and protect original copies
- E-journals also allow interactivity among readers and authors and editors by incorporating mechanism to send feedback via email.
- Hyperlinks to bibliographic citations facilitate the readers in accessing other sources and referen**CES.**

#### Vi. Disadvantages of Electronic journals.

Ø **COST - INCLUDES THE HIGH COST OF ESTABLISHING AN ELECTRONIC ENVIRONMENT (HARDWARE & SOFTWARE) , AND THE NEED FOR FREQUENT UPDATES AND UPGRADES MEANS THAT EVEN ‘FRU’ ELECTRONIC JOURNALS HAVE ASSOCIATED COSTS.**

Ø **RIGHT ISSUES - THE NEW ENVIRONMENT IS NOT SAFE OR**

A SECURE PLACE TO PUBLISH, IN THAT COPYRIGHT LAWS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ARE STILL BEING DEVELOPED.

- Ø **CREDIBILITY** - E-JOURNALS MAY NOT BE AS CREDITABLE AS PRINT JOURNALS, ESPECIALLY AMONG SCHOLARS AND AUTHORITIES IN THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT, BECAUSE THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS MAY BE ABSENT AND ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THESE TYPE OF JOURNALS MAY BE CONSIDERED UNOFFICIAL EFFORTS
- Ø **ACCESSIBILITY** - TO KEEP USERS AWARE ABOUT E-JOURNALS, MORE INDEXES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES SHOULD BE PUBLISHED.

#### Vii. Role of National Agency

National Agencies are making all their efforts to provide E-journals to the universities, institutions and colleges free of cost on the membership basis through Library Consortia. Consortia based subscription to electronic resources which should clearly indicate the terms and conditions favouring and protecting the academic interest of the college and university libraries. eg. Ugc-Infonet. Indest Consortia etc.

#### Viii. Conclusion

Thus Electronic journals provides a variety of advantages, not only to libraries, but also to users, authors, publishers and archivist. They act as microscope and a telescope for scholars by facilitating both deep, narrow searches of core Content and broad searches that cover the periphery of subfield and distinct disciplines .

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