



## Use of Electronic Journals by the Faculty Members of Engineering College Libraries in Chittoor District Under JNTUA Region: A Study

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### Abstract:

This study highlights that a majority of the respondents 172 (76.7%) opined that the engineering college libraries subscribe the e-resources, Majority of the respondents 165 (73.7%) opined that their library subscribes the e-journals from the INDEST-Consortia, 123 respondents (54.9%) using e-journals for the research purpose, majority of respondents 77 (34.3%) opined that downloading speed is the major issue to access e-journals, and majority of the respondents (an average 71.5%) are satisfied with the existing library facilities rendered in the college library to access the electronic resources. This study suggests that more e-resources should be available in engineering college libraries, need to conduct information literacy programmes by the library professionals on use and importance of e-resources and faculty need to be encouraged by the management to participate, present papers at National and International Seminars/conferences and also on hand work-shops to up-date their knowledge more on resources and to teach the student community.

**Key Words:** Libraries, E-Journals, E-Books, E-Databases, E-Magazines, E-Lectures

### 1. Introduction

In the present digital era, the academic institutions like technical and other professional educational institutions are playing an important role in shaping the future of tomorrow's societies and the e-resources have distinct advantages over the print media. In the present scenario higher education is bound to elect for the inevitable shift from the culture of print to a culture of digital technology. This affects not only teaching learning and research but in total higher education. The unprecedented growth of information and knowledge proliferation and at the same

time an ever rising demands from readers in academic community especially, in the engineering education provision of library and information services on contemporary lines by means of information and communication technology. Therefore, there is a need to provide a new dimension in collection, management, processing and dissemination of information.

### 2. E-Resources in Engineering College Libraries

The information resources providing in any engineering college library can be grouped into two i.e. print



and non-print formats. The following are some of the Print resources, Books, Hardcopies of Periodicals, Back Volumes of Periodicals, Question Papers, Reports, Directories, Project Reports, Newspapers, Newsletters, etc., and E-Books, E-Journals, E-Databases, E-Magazines, E-Lectures, E-Conference Proceedings, E-Audios, E-Images, E-Music, E-News, E-Subject Guides, E-Newsletter, E-Reports, and E-Directories, etc., are the non-print resources.

### Need of the Study:

For various reasons, the engineering college libraries are procuring/subscribing electronic resources besides print versions. Due to the invention of information and communication technology, the librarians are acquiring more electronic resources to satisfy the information needs of users. Now, the concept of information provision to users is changed from information availability to information access.

Therefore, there is no option left out to library professionals except going for electronic resources. The electronic resources had various advantages which forced the library professionals to incorporate them in library collections. The following are the some of the e-resources in engineering colleges.

### 3. E-Journals in Engineering College Libraries

With the invention of information technology applications and particularly Internet, there has been a shift in acquiring traditional print journals to Electronic Journals. Electronic journals contribute remarkable possibilities and advantages

over print journals; such as ease of use, "anywhere-any time", accessibility, share ability, hyperlink to related text or multimedia content etc. Electronic Journals also providing solution to other major logistic problems faced by libraries such as follow up of missing issues, binding, shelving etc.

Access to E-journals engages various modalities viz. identification of journals, corresponding with the publishers/aggregators, signing the agreements and checking the GOC etc. Journal titles are increasing three forth every 15 years, and costs of journals are growing at the 2.5 times every 10 years; so it obvious that no single library can procure all journals in a discipline. So the AICTE has taken step to initialize INDEST (Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology) Consortium to cater needs of all the users in Engineering Colleges in India and now it is name as Shodhsindhu under the INFLIBNET.

### 4. Advantages of E-Journals

The ability to deliver the images, video, animation, communication forums, and links to the abstracts or full text of other journal articles provides added value compared to the printed journal. There are several advantages in using an electronic format:

- Easy to search for articles by a particular author or on a particular topic or any specific information anywhere in the text
- Peer review can be easily done
- Possibility of more open peer review process
- Easily be merged with alerting services
- Speedy scientific communication



- process
- Support multimedia & Interactive
  - Delay in publishing the articles can be reduced.
  - Demand no library space nor shelving costs nor can they be stolen from the library
  - Available 24 /7 and required less space to store

**Statement of the problem:**

The study has been under taken entitled "Use of Electronic Journals by the Faculty Members of Engineering College Libraries in Chittoor District Under JNTUA Region: A Study", to use of faculty of engineering colleges in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.

**Methodology and Analysis:**

For the present study, a questionnaire is prepared on Google doc, an online survey has been taken on Engineering College libraries in

Chittoor District under JNTUA- Region and 224 responses were received.

**5. Objectives:**

1. To know the Importance of E-Journals in the Engineering Colleges.
2. To study the usage of the Electronic journals.
3. To know the consortia used by users of engineering colleges.
4. To study the purpose of using of e-journals.
5. Difficulties facing while accessing e-journals.

**6. Data Analysis and Interpretation:**

For the current study, the data collected from the respondents and the same is analyzed with simple frequency, tables and pie-charts with graphs and presented in the following tables in a scientific manner.

**6.1. Gender – wise Respondents**

Table 1

Male	152	67.9%
Female	72	32.1%

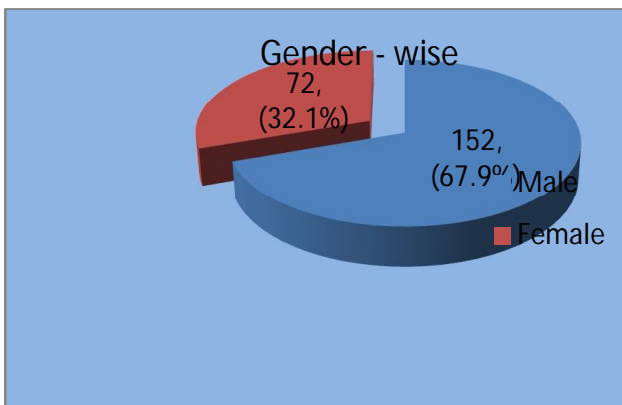


Table 1 shows that majority 152 (67.9%) of the respondents are male and 72 (32.1%) are females.



### 6.2. Department – wise Respondents

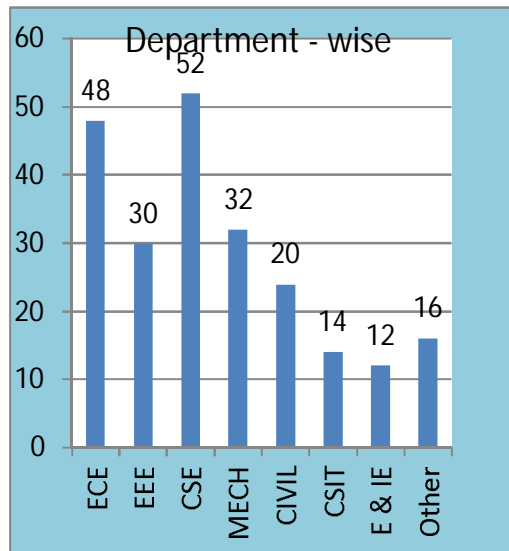


Table 2

ECE	48	21.5%
EEE	30	13.3%
CSE	52	23.2%
MECH	32	14.2%
CIVIL	20	9.0%
CSIT	14	6.2%
E & IE	12	5.4%
Other	16	7.2%

The above Table 2 explains the details of Department wise respondents, the majority 23.2% from Department of Computer Science and Engineering,

followed by 21.5% from the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering and the minimum 5.4% from Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering.

### 6.3. Designation – wise Respondents

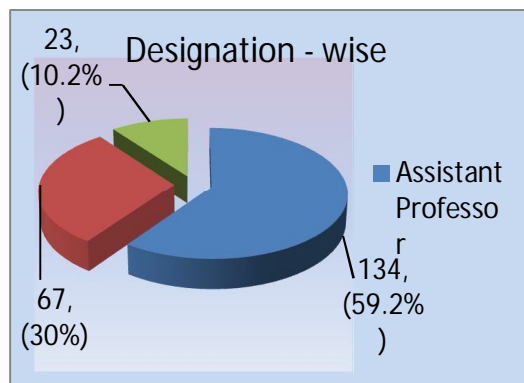


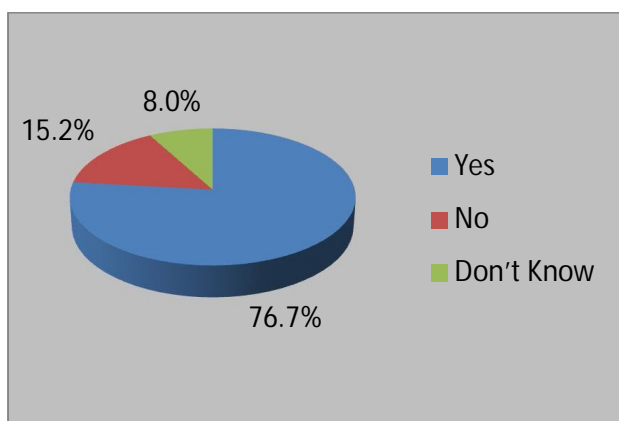
Table- 3

Assistant Professor	134	59.2%
Associate Professor	67	30.0%
Professor	23	10.2%

The above Table 3 presents designation wise respondents. It is observed that majority 134(59.8%) respondents are Assistant Professor, followed by 67(30%) are Associate Professor and 23(10.2%) are Professors.

#### 6.4. Subscription of E-resources in their libraries

Table- 4

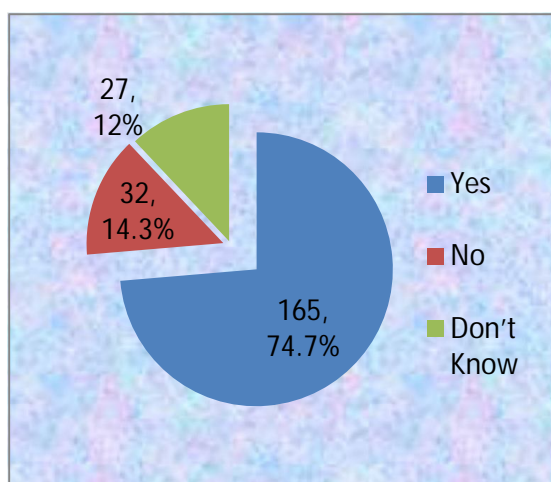


Yes	172	76.7%
No	34	15.2%
Don't Know	18	8.0%

The above graph and table reveals about the e-resources subscription in their libraries. Majority of the respondents 172 (76.7%) opinioned that their library subscribes the e-resources and 34 (15.2%) respondents opinioned that their library does not subscribe e-resources and 18 (8.0%) respondents says that they don't know about the subscription of e-resources.

#### 6.5. Subscription of E-journals through Consortia

Table -5



Yes	165	73.7%
No	32	14.3%
Don't Know	27	12%

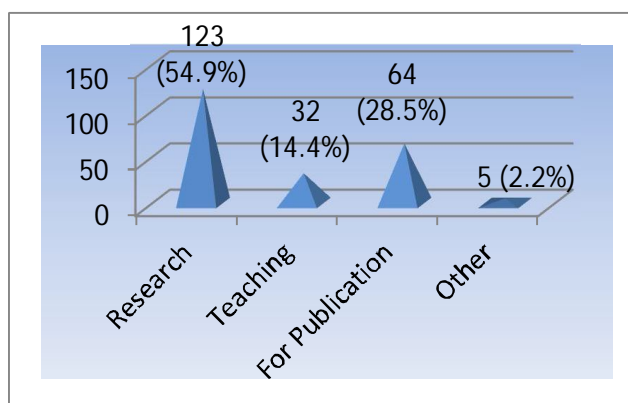


The above graph and table describes about the e-journals subscription through consortia. Majority of the respondents 165 (73.7%) opinioned that their library subscribes the e-journals from the consortia and 32 (14.3%) respondents opinioned that their library does not subscribe through consortia and 27 (12%) respondents says that they don't know about the subscription of e-journals.

### 6.6. Purpose of using e-journals

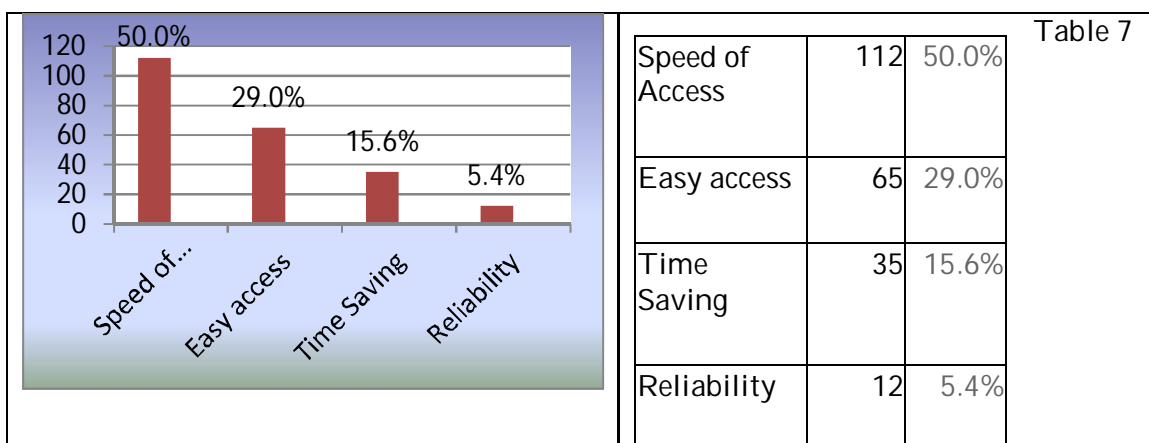
**Table-6:**

Research	123	54.9%
Teaching	32	14.4%
For Publication	64	28.5%
Other	5	2.2%



The above Table 6 and the graph reveals that a majority of the respondents 123 (54.9%) using e-journals for the Research purpose, followed by 32 (14.4%) of the users using for teaching purpose, 64 (28.5%) of the users using for publication purpose and remaining 5 (2.2%), of the users using for other purpose respectively.

### 6.7. The criteria for using e-journals





The above graph and table is evident that a majority of the respondents 112 (50%) using e-journals because of speed of access, 65 (29%) of the respondents opinioned that e-journals are easy to access, and remaining 35 (15.6%), 12 (5.4%) of the respondents opinioned that time saving and reliability is the criteria respectively to access the e-journals.

6.8. E-journals that keeps them up-to-date

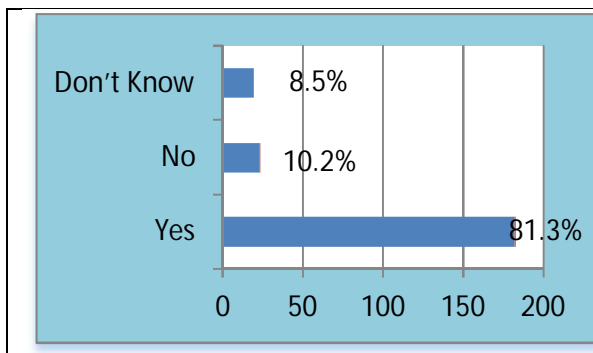
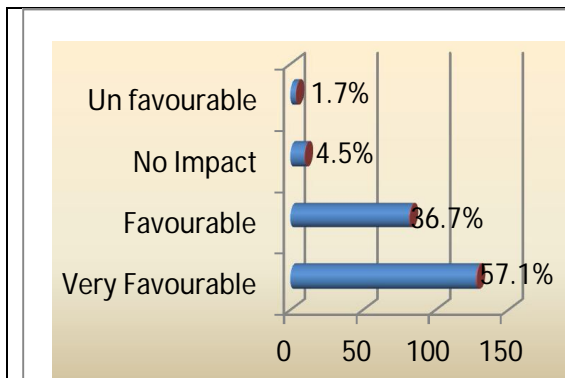


Table 8

Yes	182	81.3%
No	23	10.2%
Don't Know	19	8.5%

The table 8 presents the respondents opinion on resources which keeps them up-to-date. It is evident that the majority of the users 182 (81.3%) are opinioned that e-journals are keeping

them up-to-date, followed by 23 (10.2%) respondents says that e-journals are not keeping them up-to-date and 19 (8.5%) respondents were not decided about e-journals usage.



Very Favorable	128	57.1%
Favorable	82	36.7%
No Impact	10	4.5%
Un favorable	4	1.7%



### 6.9. Impact of E-Journals on their working environment

The above Table 9 shows that a majority of the respondents 128 (57.1%) using of e-journals helps them very favorable, followed by 82 (36.7%) of the users opines that using of e-journals is favorable, 10 (4.5%) respondents says that there is no impact and remaining 4(1.7%), respondents opinioned its unfavorable.

### 6.10. Difficulties in Accessing Electronic Journals

Table 10 Difficulties in Accessing Electronic Journals

Nature of Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Less number of subject journals	68	30.3%
Poor Assistance	18	8.0%
Downloading speed	77	34.3%
Internet problems	34	15.1%
Lack of ICT skills	15	6.7%
Time consuming	12	5.3%

Above Table and graph reveals that majority of respondents 77 (34.3%) opinioned that downloading speed is the major issue to access e-journals, 68 (30.3%) respondents says that less number of journal availability is the problem, followed by 34 (15.1%) respondents are facing the problem of internet facility, and 18 (8.0%), 15 (6.7%), 12 (5.3%) are facing the problem of poor assistance, lack of ICT skills and time consuming respectively.

### 6.11. User's Satisfaction on Infrastructure Facilities to Access the Electronic Journals at College Library

Particulars	Satisfied	Not Satisfied
Computer Systems	160 (71.4%)	64 (28.5%)
Internet Connectivity	146 (65.2%)	78 (34.8%)
Infrastructure Facility	175 (78.1%)	49 (21.9%)

Table- 11

It is found from the above table that (Table No.11) majority of the respondents (an

average 71.5%) are satisfied with the ICT facilities available in the college library to access the electronic resources and an average 28.5% of the respondents are not satisfied. A Majority of the respondents 175 (78.1%) were satisfied with

infrastructure facilities and 78 (34.8%) respondents opinioned that internet connectivity is major issue to access the e-resources.





Hence, it is understood that the sufficient physical facilities are available in the college library at the satisfactory level of the respondents.

**7. Findings:** From the above analysis the following findings were found:

1. A Majority of the respondents 172 (76.7%) opined that their respective library subscribes the e-resources and 34 (15.2%) respondents opined that their library does not subscribe e-resources and 18 (8.0%) respondents says that they don't know about the subscription of e-resources.

2. It is noticed that the majority of the respondents 165 (73.7%) opined that their library subscribes the e-journals from the consortia and 32 (14.3%) respondents opined that their library does not subscribe through consortia and 27 (12%) respondents says that they don't know about the subscription of e-journals.

3. A majority of the respondents 123 (54.9%) using e-journals for the Research purpose, followed by 32 (14.4%) of the users using for teaching purpose, 64 (28.5%) of the users using for publication purpose and remaining 5 (2.2%), of the users using for other purpose respectively.

4. A majority of the respondents 112 (50%) using e-journals because of speed of access, 65 (29%) of the respondents opined that e-journals are easy to access, and remaining 35 (15.6%), 12 (5.4%) of the respondents opined that time saving and reliability is the criteria respectively to access the e-journals.

5. It is evident that the majority of the users 182 (81.3%) are opined that e-journals are keeping them up-to-date, followed by 23 (10.2%) respondents says that e-journals are not keeping them up-

to-date and 19 (8.5%) respondents were not decided about e-journals usage.

6. A majority of the respondents 128 (57.1%) using of e-journals helps them very favorable, followed by 82 (36.7%) of the users opines that using of e-journals is favorable, 10 (4.5%) respondents says that there is no impact and remaining 4(1.7%), respondents opined its unfavorable.

7. A majority of the respondents (an average 71.5%) are satisfied with the facilities rendered in the college library to access the electronic resources and an average 28.5% of the respondents are not satisfied with the facilities provided to access the electronic resources. Majority of the respondents 175 (78.1%) were satisfied with infrastructure facilities and 78 (34.8%) respondents opined that internet connectivity is major issue to access the e-resources.

#### **8. Conclusion:**

This study showed that the usage of e-resources especially, e-journals are very common among the faculty members of engineering colleges' libraries. It also evident that majority of faculty are dependent on online journals to get desired and relevant information for their research as well as for their regular academic work. The e-journals are helping them very much in their working environment.

#### **Suggestions:**

Based on the findings from the study, the following some of the important suggestions were made:

1. There is need to provide more e-journals from foreign databases to improve quality of the academic credits.

2. There is need to conduct information literacy programmes to the library users on Open Educational



Resources (OER), which are freely available on the web.

3. There is urgent to allocate more funds by the managements to procure more physical facilities in the library such Air-Condition, Discussion Forums, strengthen the digital libraries etc.

4. It is suggested that the library professionals should be taken training on ICT skills to equip more knowledge on electronic resources, and;

5. The management should be encourage the faculty with regard to attending/pursuing the SWAYAM-NPTEL certification courses to enhance the more subject knowledge to deliver the students community of their better future so that India will be Shaine as dream of the then president of India, Bhartaharathna shri. Dr.APJ Kalam.

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