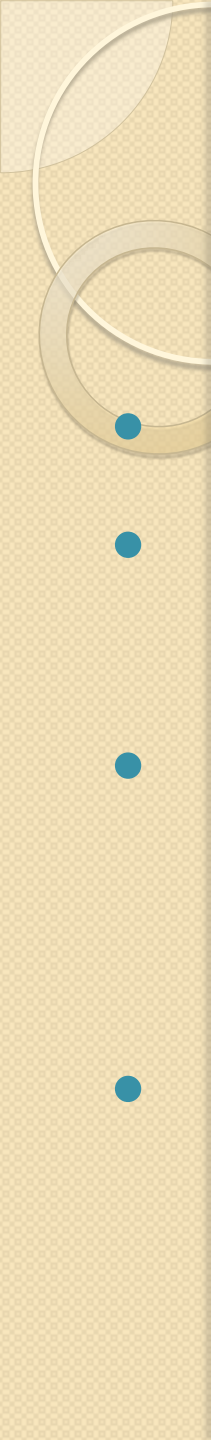




**Approach to Print and Online Journals among the
Research Scholars of Science and Arts
Departments of Mahatma Gandhi University,
Kottayam**

**Laila T Abraham
Deputy Librarian
Mahatma Gandhi University Library**

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- **Relevance of the study**
 - **Print journals vs. Electronic journals**
 - **Information seeking behavior of research scholars in Mahatma Gandhi University**
 - **Use of e-journals in research**

Objectives of the study

- 1. To identify the views of research scholars belonging to science and arts departments regarding the use of electronic journals.**
- 2. To identify their preference with regard to the use of e- journals and print journals for research purpose.**
- 3. To identify the difference in approach of researchers in science and arts departments towards both print and electronic journals.**
- 4. Based on the data available a decision could be derived regarding whether to switch over to e-journal subscription or to retain print subscription or to add more of e-journals or sustain both in co- existence, utilizing the budget allocated.**

Hypothesis

1. The use of e-journals diminished the use of print journals.
2. E-journals are referred more by research scholars than print journals for their research purpose.
3. Among the two groups, E-journals are used more by research scholars in science departments than in arts departments.
4. It is cost-effective to subscribe to e-journals in Mahatma Gandhi University due to its high usage by the research scholars.

Mahatma Gandhi University Library

- **Established in 1989**
- **Over 43,000 books and 5000 bound volumes of periodicals**
- **125 foreign journals and 235 Indian journals.**
- **18 Popular magazines and 16 newspapers**
- **32 terminals for internet access**
- **All departments are enabled access to the INFONET consortium through NMEICT network**

Data Collection and Analysis

- Methodology
 - Questionnaire
- Data Collection
 - From 15 each from Science and Arts Research Scholars
- Analysis
 - Percentage Method

Findings

- E-journal usage is high among the research scholars in both science and arts departments than print journals for their research purpose.
- Most of them visit the library to do online searches rather than consulting books or print journals. This is a clear indication that the use of print journals is diminishing gradually due to the high utility of e-journals.

Among both the groups, science researchers use e-journals more than arts group of researchers.

Most of the e-journals accessed, have abstracts only, which is adequate for the science group for getting their related literature. But for researchers in arts group, full text articles are generally required for their study.

Print journals are less used by both the groups. From the analysis made from the study, it is found that it is cost-effective to subscribe to e-journals in Mahatma Gandhi University library due to its extensive use by research scholars.

SUGGESTIONS

- **More terminals may be provided in the library for the effective use of e-journals by the research scholars, once a decision is taken to subscribe more number of e-journals than print journals.**
- **E-journal consortia may be constructed with other university libraries in Kerala, so that researchers would be benefited more from it.**

Cost benefit analysis

- **Since cost of the journals is not much affected when both the media is concerned, the preference of the research scholars should be given priority.**
- **For core journals of all disciplines print + online subscription should be maintained.**
- **For Science disciplines more of online journals and for Arts disciplines more of print journals may be subscribed.**
- **In the angle of cost benefit strategy, libraries can be advised to participate in consortia purchasing in order to take advantage of aggregated purchasing agreements for digital library resources.**
- **But due to the factors like accountability of the subscription, convenience and multi-user readership, the need to sustain print + online subscription in the University Library is recommended.**



Thank You

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