

A COMPARISON OF PRINT AND ELECTRONIC JOURNALS IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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ABSTRACT

Journals play an important role in the information chain. They provide recent updates on the development in specific fields and form a version of scholarly research record for long-term. Just like the print version of a journal, the electronic journals also have different formats and styles. E-journals are paid journals that exist on 'cost-per-access' and 'pay-as-you-go' basis via online websites, such as EBSCO Information service. For the research communication, print journals were serving as the primary medium and it remained unaffected in function and format since the first ever academic journal. A Full-Length Paper focusses on the meaning, concept, and definition of print journals, electronic journals and its types. This article also distinguishes the electronic and print journal.

KEYWORDS: EBSCO Information Service, Journals And Its Types, Indexing And Abstracting Services

INTRODUCTION

ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

The term 'Electronic journal' is vague because it is not always clear as for whether the journal producers refer an electronic collection of a print journal, distribution format for a print journal, or a journal that is published in the electronic version. Much like the print journals, the electronic versions are published in various formats and styles. During early days, the electronic journals were primitive, that is, they were not attractive, had unappealing layouts and it was tough to download and read.

Concept and Meanings

Journals play an important role in the information chain. They provide recent updates on the development in specific fields and form a version of scholarly research record for long-term. They are issued at regular intervals and the portions are referred generally as "volumes" that correspond to a calendar year. Once a volume is completed, for the preservation purpose, they are arranged and bound. Increasingly, the journals are made available online, and this is referred to as an electronic journal.

Mostly, the academic staff and the students gain access to a few academic journals through the institutional library and academic library, since only a few people can buy only a handful of journals. Getting access to journals in academic

libraries is tough because of the following reasons:

- Most of the lists in library catalogue show only the journal titles and not the article titles within it.
- People must avail indexing and abstracting services to recognize different articles of interest. In disparity to these old-style journals, the e-journals have the capacity to transform.
- Given a proper set-up, the articles can be delivered straight to the website on every researcher's desk when essential, with some interruption.
- The library could have the subscription of a journal the user wants, but it will have only one copy and we will have to go to the library to refer it.
- Sometimes well-endowed university libraries cannot afford to buy all the journals that the members possibly might require.

DEFINITION OF E-JOURNALS

According to Harold's Librarian's Glossary "it is a journal for which the full end product is available on optical disk, over a network or in any other electronic form, strictly a journal in which the entire process is carried out electronically". In other terms, an e-journal is one where all the tasks are carried out electronically like writing, submitting, editing, reviewing and item distribution without paper intermediaries.

According to Lancaster "an e-journals are those journals which are available in electronic medium and is available only in this medium. In general, a journal that is available in electronic form through online host is called e-journals."

According to Jones, S.L. and C.B. Cook "e-journal is one whose input text may be entered directly by a computer or by other file transfer mechanisms in a Machine-readable form, whose editorial processing is facilitated by a computer and whose articles are thus made available in electronic form to readers."

Types of Journals

There are two types of journals:

- Print journal
- E-journal

Print journals: Since the first scholarly journal and for more than three centuries, the printed journal has remained unchanged in form and function and has been serving as the primary medium of research communication. Scientists have been publishing articles since then without expecting any monetary benefits. The researchers could expect royalties for their monographs and textbooks, but they give away their articles in exchange of some intangible benefits like a priority over other researchers working on the same issue, citations, status and impact the article could make in a scientific career.

E-Journals: E-journals are paid journals that exist on 'cost-per-access' and 'pay-as-you-go' basis via online websites, such as EBSCO Information service. The organization or an individual should pay the subscription cost.

COMPARISON WITH PRINT JOURNALS

Evidence of the electronic journals' stability is reproduced by the truth that many journals have now been indexed in standard print sources like Library Literature and Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA). Even though it may look like a glitch than in a print publication, an online publication is indexed, it shows the electronic journals' increasing acceptance by the library profession and the users as they offer:

- hypertext links to other resources
- searchable text
- use of photographs, color graphics, audio and video
- the ability to offer unabridged prepublication articles' advance copies.

IMPACT OF E-JOURNALS

- Issue publication in a journal is performed quickly since the editorial correspondence between the editorial board, submissions reviews, and the information exchange could perform faster than the channels used for printing journals.
- Many online journals are only electronic versions of paper journals the new online medium is not being exploited.
- E-journals are more functional and user-friendly than a print journal. There should be comparability between the copies of articles from an electronic journal and a photocopy made from a print journal.
- Internet and personal computer are advantages in e-publishing. With these, it is now likely even for one individual to take complete accountability for the output of a document, and the final copy production. E-journals can influence an extensive group of audience faster, data can be circulated as soon as it is made available and is deposited once it comes online.

Evaluation between Print Journals and E-Journals

Academic communication is in the initial stages of far-reaching and fascinating transformation made likely by the communications and computing revolution. The scholarly communication's evolution towards an e-format is driven by two factors: (i) attractive new features, and (ii) potential cost savings. This development is also reserved by the enormous inactivity of the academic system.

- The cost of print journal is high that libraries can barely subscribe to all those needed by their users. Without the involvement of traditional publishers, there is faster growth in new e-only journals, published by scholars themselves.

Most of these journals are operated with no fees, or with submission fees paid by the authors, or thus can be made freely accessible.

- The speed of traditional articles publication is slow. Indeed, when one article is written in one year, it is published in the upcoming year. By the time the articles appear in print version, they get outdated.
- Most of the academic electronic journals are linked in many ways to listservs. Before they become formal papers, listservs link them to the old version of 'journalizing' thoughts. The reaction is prompt, reviews can be 'wild' and yet, there are no definite theoretical significances to this kind of pre-publication 'thinking out loud', and just reaction from the globe that only contributes and helps to growth.

CONCLUSIONS

The current paper has been written to compare two types of journals - the print and electronic versions of journals. Journals play an important role in the information chain. They provide recent updates on the development in specific fields and form a version of scholarly research record for long-term. As the journals are made available online, they are called electronic journals. They are made available in electronic medium and is made available only in this medium. In academic libraries, access to these journals is difficult, because university libraries cannot pay so much to buy all the journals but subscribe only the journals that the researchers want to access.

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