Preface

Scientific literature, due to continued research, seems to be ever increasing and growing at an exponential rate. This necessitates the availability of the scientific information to the users. The Developments in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have made paradigm shifting the way in which information are collected, stored, retrieved and distributed. This forces libraries to introduce many new services, either by converting existing services into e-services or by developing and implementing entirely new services for search, delivery and use of information.

The user attitude towards information is gradually shifting from the printed documents to electronic resources and thus, it has been their prerogative in use of e-resources such as e-journals, e-databases, Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), government publications, online newspapers, etc. In libraries and information centers, E-resources carry the potential power to increase the learning opportunities offered to students.

Thus, e-resources are kind of documents in digital formats which are made available to library users through a computer based information retrieval system. The Internet is said to be the right and most extensively used channel to catch hold of the majority of e-resources.

If the digital revolution has done anything, it has fundamentally altered the relationships between publishers and libraries. Where once libraries were fairly passive consumers of whatever print products emerged in the marketplace, they are now active participants in shaping the world's information landscape. Libraries are showing their clout in this new marketplace. Consortia have not only increased libraries' bargaining power; they have also set important precedents and turned aside a number of problematic initiatives.

Due to tremendous growth and continuous development in technology, the role of library becomes more responsive in making the world techno-savvy. Technological developments have effected not only the formats and sources of the information, but also how and where to provide library services. Libraries and their resources have partially moved to the virtual world of the internet. As a result, library users can access the resources from outside the
physical library. In an effort to reach users accessing the library via their computers, many libraries and library consortia are extending their services to include virtual reference. Technology now allows users to submit their queries to the library at any time, from any place in the world.

Today the quality of engineering college libraries is measured in terms of web based collections or e-resources, networking component and ICT tools etc. There is a need to assess the availability of electronic collections exclusively on the e-journals and infrastructure facilities in engineering institutions especially self-financing educational institutions, since more than 97% of engineering institutions are Self financing institutions. Some of these self-financing engineering institutions are categorised as minority and non-minority.

This study is carried out with the objectives to identify the availability of various types of e-journals in self-financing engineering institutions, to identify the librarians’ opinion on different aspects of e-journals, to identify the frequency and purpose of use of e-journals by the faculties and students. The study is carried out in two parts, based on Questionnaire method.

Place: Guwahati

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