Chapter 5

Conclusion, Findings And Suggestions
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5.1 CONCLUSION

The present study sought to examine the use of e-journals by the PG students of the Faculty of Medicine in AMU, and the results show that most of the objectives are met satisfactorily. The study reveals that most of the medical PG students in AMU are aware of e-journals and they access them. It has been found from the survey that maximum PG students access e-journals from the Medical College Library and their departmental labs not only for study but also for updating knowledge and preparing assignments. Though the majority of them access e-journals, only a few students subscribe to them personally. Most of the PG students consider e-journals as useful and it is because of their timely access and searching capabilities. A large number of medical PG students in AMU search articles through search engines using keywords. The study also found that most of the students read full-text articles on the screen and PDF is the most preferred format. Majority of the students are not aware of any e-journal consortia in the field of medicine, yet many of them use other consortia in which AMU is a member. Though most of the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine access e-journals, they face many problems also such as limited access terminals, slow speed of internet connection, etc. and most of them feel that user training is necessary to increase the usage of e-journals among the students.

5.2 FINDINGS

The following are the major findings generated by the present survey.

5.2.1 Most of the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine in AMU are aware of e-journals and access them. 97.37% of the population studied are aware of e-journals and 94.74% of them access e-journals.

5.2.2 Analysis of the collected data shows that (Table 4.4) Medical College Library’s ‘MEDLARS Center’ is the place from where most of the PG students (53.95%) access e-journals. Departmental computer labs are also used by some students(46.05%). Some of them access at University Computer Center and some...
other places like cyber café, home, etc. are also used by some students. But none of them go to Maulana Azad Library to access e-journals.

5.2.3 It has been found by the present study that most of the medical PGs in AMU use e-journals for their study purposes (55.26%), followed by for updating knowledge (53.95%), to prepare assignments (46.05%) and other purposes (7.89%).

5.2.4 The analysis of the data reveals that most of the students consider features of e-journals; videos, links to articles in the same journal and links to subject databases as very useful features. 59.72%, 65.25% and 38.89% respectively have this opinion. The feature of links to cited articles in another journal freely has never been heard of the majority of the students (45.83%). Yet this feature is considered as useful by 37.50% of the students. Most of the students (51.39%) are not of the opinion that links to author’s e-mail address is a useful one. Only 27.78% feel that this is a useful feature of e-journals.

5.2.5 Analysis of some problematic issues of e-journals (Table 4.8) shows that loading of articles in PDF format is the biggest problem (for 65.28%). Slow speed of videos is problematic for 41.67% and 47.22% consider it as a minor problem. Slow loading of pictures is also not a big problem to majority of the respondents. It is a big problem to 36.12% and a minor nuisance to 44.44%. Absence of links to cited articles is also not a big problem to majority. For 40.28% it is a minor problem, for 31.94% it is not a problem at all and only for 27.78% it is a big problem.

5.2.6 The study also found that (from Table 4.9) most of the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine consider e-journals as useful and the main feature that is why they feel them to be useful is that e-journals provide timely access (71.05%). The other features for this opinion are their searching capabilities (40.79%), remote access (25%), multimedia facilities (21.05%), hyper linking (18.42%) and some other feature like ease of use, downloading facility, etc. (7.89%).

5.2.7 Table 4.10 makes us conclude that PDF is the most preferred format for reading e-journal articles by the medical PGs in AMU (80.56%).

5.2.8 It was found that most of the medical PG students search e-journal articles through search engines (65.28%). They also search through PubMed’s multi-
journal website (30.56%), specific journal's website (16.67%) and other multi-journal websites (15.28%). Most of them (61.11%) search articles using keywords. Some of them (26.39%) search by journal's title, and a minority of 8.33% and 4.17% search by article title and author's name respectively. (From Table 4.13 and Table 4.14).

5.2.9 After locating an e-journal, majority of the PG students scan the latest issues (44.44%). Some of them (37.50%) search specific articles needed and the others (18.06%) scan table of contents of all issues.

5.2.10 The analyzed data of the present survey reveals that the majority of the medical PGs are not aware of e-journal consortia in the field of medicine. Yet they use others subscribed by the University. UGC-INFONET is the mostly used consortium (40.78%) followed by J-Gate consortium. None of them use CSIR and HELINET consortia. (Table 4.16 and Table 4.17).

5.2.11 PubMed is the mostly used e-journal database among the medical PGs. 93.06% use it, followed by MEDLINE (41.67%), NIC MEDLARS Center (25%) and ADONIS (2.78%). (From Table 4.18).

5.2.12 The present study found that most of the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine are aware of e-journals provided by the Medical College Library to their subject of specialization (Table 4.21). But most of them are not satisfied by the library's service as 68.06% of the students feel that all important e-journals they would like to access are not provided by the library (Table 4.22).

5.2.13 Table 4.24 reveals that though most of the PGs consider e-journals as useful, they have some objections also to them. The main objection is the need of internet connection to access them given by 62.50%. The other objections are, they have to be read on the screen (34.72%), need to take print out of articles (22.22%), lack of ability to browse (9.72%).

5.2.14 The study also found that the students face many problems while accessing e-journals such as limited number of access terminals (47.22%), slow speed (36.11%), internet connectivity (33.33%), and lack of training (27.78%).

5.2.15 Another important finding of the study is that most of the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine need user training to make maximum use of e-journals.
5.3. TENABILITY OF HYPOTHESES

HYPOTHESIS-I

"Most of the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine in AMU are aware of e-journals."

The analysis of the collected data reveals that most of the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine in AMU are aware of e-journals.

So this hypothesis is proved to be a true hypothesis.

HYPOTHESES-II

"Most of the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine access e-journals in the Medical College Library."

The present study reveals that the majority of PG students (53.95%) access e-journals in the Medical College Library.

So this hypothesis is also a true hypothesis.

HYPOTHESES-III

"Most of the PG students are satisfied with the e-journal service provided by the Medical College Library."

It is clear from the Table 4.22 that most of the students (68.06%) feel that the Medical College Library does not provide access to all important e-journals they would like to access and thus they are not fully satisfied with the e-journal service of the library.

So this hypothesis is proved to be a null hypothesis.

HYPOTHESES-IV

"Most of the medical PG students face problems while accessing e-journals."

The study finds that most of the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine (88.89%) face many problems while accessing e-journals.

So this hypothesis is proved fully true.

HYPOTHESES-V

"Most of the PG students are aware of some e-journal consortia in the field of Medicine."

Table 4.16 clearly indicates that more than half of the total respondents (54.17%) are not aware of e-journal consortia in medicine.

So this hypothesis is a null hypothesis.
5.4 SUGGESTIONS

Based on the results and opinions of the respondents, the present study suggests the following:

5.4.1 To provide the e-journal service effectively and efficiently, more number of access terminals should be installed in the Medical College Library as well as in the departmental computer laboratories.

5.4.2 To save the precious time of the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine, high speed internet connection should be provided.

5.4.3 For the proper exploitation of the e-journal services, library should appoint adequate number of well-trained staff in the e-journal labs.

5.4.4 The library should introduce orientation and user training programs to the students, preferably at the start of every academic session.

5.4.5 Proper feedback system should be introduced to know about various problems faced by the students and to solve them effectively.

5.4.6 The e-journal labs in the library and departments should provide printing facility to the students free of cost or at a nominal cost.

5.4.7 The Medical College Library should provide the list of e-journals, which can be accessed in the library, to various departments of studies showing the titles which are of interest of the students of the department.

5.4.8 More number of e-journals should be subscribed by the library in the fields of specialization, where only small numbers of e-journals are being subscribed.

5.4.9 Students should be provided with the correct login and passwords of e-journals and e-journal consortia being subscribed.

5.4.10 E-journals having higher impact factor should be subscribed.

5.4.11 To increase the usage of e-journals by the PG students in the Faculty of Medicine, who are always busy with patient-care in OPD, 24 hour internet connectivity should be provided or increase the timing of the labs till late night so that they can access e-journals after clinics/OPD.

5.4.12 The Faculty library should organize regular workshops to enhance the usage of e-journals.
5.4.13 The ‘Online Journal Lab’ in the Maulana Azad Library should be open to the postgraduate students as well.

5.5. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY

- Surveys may be conducted to find out the use of e-journals in other faculties of AMU also, not only by the student but of the Research scholars and Faculty members also.
- Comparative study can be conducted on the use of e-journals by the users in related departments of studies or faculties in AMU.
- Surveys can be conducted on not only the use of e-journals, but also on the use of other e-resources such as e-books, e-databases, CD-ROMs, etc.
- Surveys can be conducted in various other universities or higher educational institutions in the country.