Chapter 1

Introduction
INTRODUCTION

The history of mankind has witnessed three revolutions and it is on the threshold of the fourth. The first two, emergence of language and advent of writing, took place thousands of years ago. The third revolution with the invention of printing press took place in our own millennium. The internet, World Wide Web (WWW) and Electronic Publishing (EP) represent the fourth revolution and seems to have humbled monopoly of printed artifacts as sole medium of scholarly communication. The revolution has just begun and is going under the process of adaptation, which would take its own time.1

Journals are the primary sources of information published with certain periodicity. In these days they are considered to be a major source of communication of nascent thought. Many aspects of publishing are being transformed by the arrival of WWW and its facility of electronic publishing. For Journals the transformation has just begun. Electronic journals, often abbreviated as e-journals, are the periodical literatures that are made available as individual titles via electronic medium, typically WWW. They constitute an important part of electronic publishing. E-journals for all practical purposes may be defined as those Journals which are available in electronic media, some may be available in CD-ROM, a few may be available in both electronic media and print. A large number of journals are now available in electronic form of some kind but otherwise title has changed. They represent an important experiment in scholarly communication today. For libraries, e-journals form a cost effective alternative to commercial publications.2

1.1 ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING (EP)

The publishing world has undergone a sea change as more and more publications are becoming web centered. Technological revolution and information explosion has changed the contemporary outlook towards the functioning of libraries and information centers. The library environment is rapidly changing to electronic environment. The physical hard volumes are slowly replaced by electronic media like magnetic tapes, CD-ROMs, DVDs, etc. To cope up with these changes, the publishers, LICs and users have opted Electronic Publishing (EP).
Electronic Publishing is a new concept in the world, which implies that the information technology has been used for generating, processing and disseminating the information to its users. In general, it is used to mean any information sources published in electronic form. The ultimate goal of electronic publishing is to provide fast and easy access to the information contained in the objective publications with simple powerful and retrieval capabilities.

E-Publishing is the process for production of typeset quality documents containing text, graphics, pictures, tables, equations, etc. EP can be represented as EP = Electronic technology + Computer technology + Communication technology + Publishing. Electronic publishing information is to be viewed electronically or online. Such information is delivered via electronic books, CD-ROMs or over WWW. If someone creates a website, that person is engaging in electronic publishing. Hence EP is the process of making available electronic access to documents. The electronic publishing have the following seven steps namely, writing, editing, organization, production, storage, selling and delivery. The synonym for EP is computer aided publishing or computer assisted publishing.

According to F. W. Lancaster, “Electronic Publishing is a publication process where the manuscripts are submitted in electronic format, edited, printed and even distributed to readers in electronic form by employing computers and telecommunication technologies”.

According to Kist, E-Publishing is “The application by publishers of a computer- aided process, by which they find, capture, shape, store and update information content in order to disseminate it to selected audience”.

In brief, the process of creating and disseminating information via electronic means including e-mail and via the web is electronic publishing. Electronically published materials may originate as traditional paper publishing or may be created specifically for EP.
1.2 TAXONOMY OF ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

The electronic publishing technology can be classified into two broad categories namely,

(i) E-Publishing using CD-ROM
(ii) E-Publishing on net.

1.2.1 E-Publishing using CD-ROM: CD-ROM has provided new dimensions for information storage and retrieval. In the electronic publishing using CD-ROM, publishers deliver physical commodity in which publisher's work is embodied. The publishing information mainly abstracting sources are common in CD-ROM.

1.2.2 E-Publishing on Net: Online publishing does not require the physical delivery of any commodity or client to the publishers. It creates an opportunity for the publishers, authors or editors, readers to be on a constant dialogue electronically. It does not necessarily deprive the publishers from the opportunity to create a visual identification in the minds of the reader. Some of the advantages of internet-based E-Publishing include: (i) Provides speed search (ii) User can instantly adopt his request through search engines.

1.3 FORMS OF E-PUBLISHING

Electronic publishing has text, graphics, images, sound and video in a multimedia format. Technical tools for the production of EP are powerful and has large installed base. Copies of e-documents are equal or better than the original without any loss of quality. E-documents are tied with the development in the technology in terms of maintenance and preservation. These documents can be distributed over the net, which is equal to having the document at every place. The major forms of e-publishing are CD-ROM, E-Books, Floppy, Databases, Multimated documents, Internet resources, Bulletin Board System and E-journals.

1.3.1 Electronic Books: An electronic book can be any type of e-content that is packaged as a discrete unit and can be used with e-book technology. It is a written work readable on a computer screen, downloaded to a PC or digital
assistant or placed on a reader designed for that purpose, i.e. professionally produced and edited text available in an e-format. E-books are changing the fundamental of reading. They are becoming a significant, enduring part of culture, society and the life of minds. They would be a viable product for academic use as an added functionality over print versions. Standards for e-books are still in development and currently different e-books software packages use different standards. The elements that are considered as important for the use of e-books are their content, software and hardware standards, digital rights management access, archiving and privacy.

1.3.2 **Electronic Databases:** A database is an organized collection of data in a specific field. With the emergence of computers and communication technologies, the strength of information system in the development of modern databases has become a large segment of electronic publishing that provides a base for procedures such as retrieving information, drawing conclusions, and making decisions. The holding of library databases consisting of books, periodicals, reports, and theses can be converted into electronic form that allows access for public use through digital networks. Nowadays, various electronic publishers account for publishing information, both bibliographic and full text on CD-ROMs as well as making them available for online retrieval.

1.3.3 **CD-ROM (Compact Disc Read Only Memory):** CD-ROM technology is hardly a decade old, extending into wide areas of information storage and retrieval. “The CD-ROM consists of a polycarbonate substrate on which the data are recorded as series of pits and flats which represents IS and OS in magnetic media”. The laser beams are used to record the data on the surface on the disc. The data get stored in a digital of pits and lands squeezed inside a spiraling groove only a micron wide that extends from the inside of the disc to the outside edge. A thin reflective layer coats the back of disc to reflect the laser beam. The CD-ROM discs are now available in different size like 4.72 inches and 3.5 inches.

1.3.4 **Multimedia Documents/resources:** Multimedia refers to the integration of multiple media - such as visual imaging, text, video and sound and animation.
in one level. On another level interactive multimedia refers to the ability of the users to control these components and interact with as needed. Multimedia is the convergence of computer and communication technology. It refers to the use of several types of media which integrates text, voice processing, film, picture graphics, animation etc. Multimedia has become the latest cultural phenomena and the thirst for the multimedia system for basic information on digital media is increasing day by day.

1.3.5 **Web Resources:** The Internet is literally becoming a lifeline for people. It is changing the notion of the library from a closed place to virtual library e.g. library without walls. It is one of the most important and complex innovations of the mankind. The Internet is a large number of computers connected to the largest network and complete tool for information exchange at the global level.

The Internet is the greatest single factor in recent years which has changed and is further changing society starting with basic tools like e-mail, file Transfer protocol (FTP), remote login (Telnet) to user friendly tools like WAIS and WWW for information publishing and accessing. Internet has emerged as the core and foundation of the information infrastructure.

1.3.6 **Bulletin Board System (BBS):** Bulletin Board system is a miniature form of an online system for a cost effective distribution of information in electronic format. BBS supports interactive communication between users on a wide variety of a subject ranging from hobbies to politics. Some bulletin boards are considered more of a talk net than a platform to exchange research information.

Bulletin Board system is vital tool for computer mediated communication among computer users. These are similar to the bulletin boards that are displayed in a library. However these are operated electronically on computer networks.
1.4 ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

The recent developments in information technology have changed the world scenario. Each and every aspect of human society has been affected by IT revolution. Nowadays, the publishing industry is switching over from print to electronic media. Any journal which is available in electronic or computerized form on the internet or on CD-ROM is known as electronic journals or e-journals. Electronic journals are more helpful for distance learners and higher education.

An e-journal may be defined vary broadly as any journal, magazine, newsletter, or type of electronic serial publication, which is available over the internet. The title can be accessed using different technologies such as WWW. Electronic journals are mostly available via the web.

An e-journal contains scholarly articles, processed, published and made available through electronic media. It is also known as virtual, paperless or online journals.

1.4.1 DEFINITIONS OF E-JOURNALS

There is no universally accepted definition of e-journals. Different people might have a term or understanding of the term ‘Electronic Journals’. Some of the definitions given by experts in the field are discussed below.

According to ALA Glossary (1983)\textsuperscript{10} “A journal is a periodical especially one containing scholarly articles or disseminating current information on research and development in a particular subject fields. If this task is done by electronic media then it may be called e-journals.”

According to David Pullinger and Brian Schkel (1990)\textsuperscript{11} e-journal is “one whose text input 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 article are thus made available in electronic form to readers”.

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\textsuperscript{10} ALA Glossary (1983)

\textsuperscript{11} David Pullinger and Brian Schkel (1990)
According to McMillan (1991) an electronic journals is defined as “any serial produced, published, distributed... via electronic networks such as Bitnet and Internet”.

Lancaster (1995) opined that “an electronic journal is created for the 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-journal.”

Ravi Chandra Rao (2002) defined e-journals as “those journals which are available in electronic media; some may be available on CD-ROM; a few may be available only on online; some may be available both in electronic media and in print”.

According to Glossary of Library and information science (2004) “an electronic journal is a publication, often scholarly, that is made accessible in a computerized format and distributed over the Internet.”

1.4.2 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The first scientific journal was published in January 1665. It was published from Paris in the name ‘Le Journal De Scavants’. With the advances in technology, from the printing technology yet another media namely, the electronic media was developed and e-journal is the bi-product of this technology. E-journals appeared in the 1970s and they got popularized by 1996.

Vannever Bush First described the “e-journals” in 1967 as a part of MEMAX proposal. Before that on this matter - UNESCO took a project in 1967 to test networking computer as means of improving scientific communication. Their first product was published in the form of an e-journal in 1980 named ‘MENTAL WORKDOAD.’ The first prototype and e-journal named ‘CHIMO’ was published in 1976 by the New Jersey institute of Technology. The first peer reviewed electronic, full text e-journal including graphics was OJCCT. In recent years, a large number of online journals have been launched which have no print version at all. The Royal Society of Chemistry, UK has also started a new series of journals, which are available in electronic form only. The Journal of
Chemistry Education has been made available on electronic form as JCE Internet. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE) encodes all journals. It is published in mark up language for online viewing. The Elsevier science publishers have launched science direct to extend web access to more than 1,100 journals published by them. American Institute of Physics (AIP) offers online version to many of its journals. American Physical Society (APS) makes electronic version of its journals available on the Internet at no additional cost of the print version subscribes. Many important journals such as Nature Online, Science Online, New England Journals of Medicine, British Medical Journals (BMJ) etc. are also available online.

Today a number of e-journals are available in the field of medicine also, which play a very important role in medical and health care. MEDLINE, a database by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), USA contains bibliographic citations and abstracts from more than 4,800 bio-medical e-journals. IndMED, a database designed by NIC, New Delhi provides access to more than 200 prominent bio-medical Indian journals. Besides these, a number of medical databases which cover a large number of full text e-journals are available such as Free Medical Journals Online, BMJ Journals Online, MedBio World, Blackwell Synergy, JAMA and Archives Journals Online, Ingenta, Science Direct, etc.

1.4.3 NEED FOR E-JOURNALS

There are many reasons why one should now consider a partial shift away from the use of conventional paper based journals to the great use of publications that are based on the use of electronic media. The following are the factors for which e-journals are needed.

- Need to support parallel support and electronic methods of knowledge dissemination.
- Information needed by faculty and student is increasing exponentially in sciences.
- Interdisciplinary research has increased the scientists' need for new information.
• With the new technologies, academics can distribute their own materials more effectively than the traditional publishing houses.
• The rising cost of the journal publications, coupled with the explosive growth in research and concomitant explosion of paper journals in various disciplines have made it impossible for most libraries to maintain a comprehensive selection of literature.
• Ease of access.  

1.4.4 FEATURES OF E-JOURNALS

The e-journals have brought about momentous changes in journal publishing and are revolutionizing libraries. There are many features which make the e-journals user-friendly. The positive features of electronic journals as compared to the print journals are as follows:
• Allow remote access.
• Can be used simultaneously by more than one user.
• Provide timely access.
• Support different searching capabilities.
• Accommodate unique features such as hyper linking.
• Save physical storage space.
• Support multimedia information.
• Do not require physical processing.
• Environmentally valuable.
• Can be saved digitally.  

1.4.5 TYPES OF E-JOURNALS

Electronic journals come in many types. Some of them are traditional paper journals simply made available electronically; others have no equivalent paper copies. They can be broadly grouped into two categories.

1.4.5.1 Online Journals: Online journals are those journals that are available on 'pay as you go' or 'cost per access' basis, via such online hosts as STN international, using property retrieval software. These e-journals are not
considered as part of library collections, because of remote online systems. Basically online journals are the electronic versions of existing printed journals. For example, all journals of American Chemical Society are available in full-text through STN international.

1.4.5.2 CD-ROM Journals: CD-ROM journals are the full-text journals published and distributed in the form of CD-ROM with regular updates, along with search software to access and print like online journals. The vast majority of the CD-ROM based journals are the electronic versions of the printed journals.\(^{17}\)

1.4.6 CLASSIFICATION OF E-JOURNALS

On the basis of the distribution methods, the e-journals can be classified as follows:-

1.4.6.1 Classic e-journals or Internet e-Journals: Some of the electronic journals are available through Internet applications, which are also called classic Journals. Originally they were distributed via-e-mail but now are available on the web and only announcements of new issues are distributed by e-mail. Access to this category of e-journal is free of cost.

1.4.6.2 Parallel E-Journals: These types of journals are published simultaneously in both forms; print and electronic. The online version may include the full text of journal, only table of contents (TOC) of selected articles and excerpts from the print version.

1.4.6.3 Database Model and Software Model: Under the Database model, articles reside in a centralized database maintained by the publisher and subscribers are given permission to access the database and use search software on central computer to locate and download articles. The software model provides a piece of software, which runs on Internet connected computers and connects to the database to the journals in the central computer. The users can search and download information, which will be sent in proprietary encrypted form. The software would have an expiration date that corresponds with the length of the subscription.
1.4.6.4 CD-ROM Journals: Commercial publishers have also made journal titles available on CD-ROM. The full text of journals and newspapers has been made available on CD-ROM. In many cases these titles duplicate print titles held by the libraries. Libraries have often subscribed to journals both in print and in microform.

1.4.7 ADVANTAGES OF E-JOURNALS

E-journals have many advantages over the print journals. Some of them are enumerated below.

- The speed of publication and delivery of the e-journal issues are much faster than that of the print versions.
- Inclusion of audio and video base text in the journal issues is possible.
- To access and retrieve relevant articles, a good number of search engines are available.
- Downloading and printing of relevant articles at the end user workstations are possible.
- E-journals have solved many problems of libraries such as space, shelving, missing of issues, missing of pages and cutting of the pages, etc.
- Multiple access and access through local networks become easy.
- Provide hypermedia linkages, i.e., linkages to the related articles cited in each article and other useful sources.
- Help in minimizing the problems related to the conservation and preservation of journals.
- Cost of publication and distribution is less than that of the print versions.
- Alerting the users regarding the publication of new issues and articles of their interest becomes earlier in electronic media.
1.4.3. DISADVANTAGES OF E-JOURNALS

There are also some disadvantages of e-journals such as:

- The psychology that paper, being a more permanent medium is more authentic than e-media.
- The lack of originality.
- Difficulty in citing the web based journals on articles due to the volatility of medium.
- People are still not accustomed to reading off the computer monitor and prefer to take a printout.
- Economic barriers.
- Difficulty to remember password.  

1.5 E-JOURNAL CONSORTIA

Knowledge is growing at a fast rate and is becoming multi-dimensional in nature. It is being produced from all over the world in all languages, all subjects and in all forms. Due to the voluminous growth of literature, no library can afford to procure, process or store all the documents required by its users, however rich the library may be. In order to fulfill their requirements, the libraries are forced to procure documents from other libraries. This concept has led to the emergence of the library cooperation and resource sharing. Introduction of communication and computer technology has led to the emergence of the concept of networking. Consortia is the latest buzz word emerged by the coming together of a group of libraries for collective bargaining with publishers, distributors or vendors for purchasing library resources.

E-journal consortium is a cooperative arrangement among group of libraries helping to derive the best possible purchase bargain from publishers due to the collective buying power. In other words, it is a kind of agreement between various publishers and cooperative group of libraries for accessing the large number of e-journals published by various publishers on highly discounted rates. This arrangement on the one hand permits
access to large number of e-journals at highly discounted rates and on the other hand, it meets the increasing pressure of diminishing library budgets, increased users’ demands, and rising cost of journals. Consortia offer healthy business to the e-journal publishers also and thus attract best possible price and terms of agreement for libraries.

1.5.1 NEED FOR CONSORTIA

Information explosion, racketing costs of journals, technological developments and information sharing zeal of S&T community have given impetus on innovation in resource sharing in the field of online accessibility of R&D journals. With the emergence and rapid growth of network and IT infrastructure, publishers are able to offer their journals online. Consortia offer healthy growth opportunities for both electronic publishers and libraries. The consortium acts as an agent on behalf of all members libraries to negotiate with the publishers to minimize the purchase price. Library consortia are commonly formed to negotiate joint purchases (e.g. Equipment, software, books, library materials and licensed electronic databases and resources) and to share resources.

1.5.2 ADVANTAGES OF E-JOURNAL CONSORTIA

The advantages of e-journal consortia are as follows:

- Help to overcome the problem of financial constraints.
- Enable cost-effective selection and comprehensive collection development programs.
- Help to avoid duplication in collection especially for expensive journals.
- Every library can make use of holdings of participating libraries.
- Easy, quick and round the clock access to electronic resources leading to greater satisfaction among the users.
- Help to improve library services by exploring the unimaginable range of e-journals.
1.5.3 CONSORTIA INITIATIVES: INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO

Many libraries at international level have set up consortia among themselves for resource sharing. Few e-journal consortia at the international level are given below.

1.5.3.1 ATLANTA HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES CONSORTIUM (AHSLC)

Atlanta Health Sciences Libraries Consortium (AHSLC) was founded in 1974. It is a cooperative organization with a membership of 29 health sciences libraries. It was formed to foster professional growth, education, and communication among health sciences libraries to promote the value of libraries and encourage their development and to facilitate resource sharing. AHSLC began with seven libraries and has now progressed to 34 current members.

1.5.3.2 NOVANET

NOVANET is a consortium of academic libraries which cooperate to enhance access to information and knowledge for the benefit of their user communities. It was established in 1988. It currently consists of ten post-secondary institutions. NOVANET serves over 44,000 full time post-secondary students. NOVANET consortium offers various services to its users such as maintaining a library management system, developing innovative approaches to resource sharing and facilitating cooperative collection development among member libraries.

1.5.3.3. WASHINGTON RESEARCH LIBRARY CONSORTIUM (WRLC)

The Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) was established in 1987 by some major universities in Washington D.C to share library collections and information technology in order to enhance the resources available to their students and faculty. WRLC provides mission-critical services to its member universities such as information technology supporting library operations and resource sharing, access to online resources, technologies to support digital collections and share campus scholarship and offsite storage to free valuable space in campus libraries.
1.5.3.4. INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF LIBRARY CONSORTIA (ICOLC)

The International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) was established in 1997. The coalition continues to be an informal, self-organized group comprising nearly 150 library consortia from around the world. The coalition serves primarily higher education institutions by facilitating discussions among consortia on issues of common interest. At times during the year, ICOLC conducts meetings to keep participating consortia informed about new electronic resources, pricing practices of electronic providers, and other issues of importance to consortia.

1.5.4 INDIAN INITIATIVES

Many library consortia around the country have been formed on different lines. They range from informal gatherings of library professionals for the purpose of sharing information and promoting a united front to more formally organized operations. The following consortia are active in India.

1.5.4.1 FORUM FOR RESOURCE SHARING IN ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS (FORSA)

FORSA was established in 1981. This is an informal group consisting of Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Inter University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Raman Research Institute (RRI), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Nizamiah Observatory (NO) and Uttar Pradesh State Observatory (UPSO). It is subscribing 25 electronic journals to Indian Astrophysics Consortium. It is also working out the consortia purchase of AIP and other publishers.

1.5.4.2 COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR) CONSORTIUM.

One of the worth maintaining Indian consortia is CSIR consortium. The NISCAIR, New Delhi was identified as the coordinator of CSIR consortium and a monitoring committee was set up with NISCAIR as the focal point. The major objective of the CSIR consortium is to strengthen CSIR library resources and provide electronic access to scientists of 40 CSIR laboratories across the country. The consortium as a first
step entered a contact with Elsevier Science to enable access to all its laboratories to 1,200 e-journals published by Elsevier. The CSIR consortium now provides access to nearly 4500 e-journals of well known publishers to the consortium members.

1.5.4.3 INDIAN NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY IN ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (INDEST)

INDEST is a consortium of 38 members of engineering institutes, located at different states. INDEST was set up under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) as per the recommendations of an expert group headed by Prof. Balakrishnan of IISc to set up consortia based subscription of Electronic Resources for Technical Education system in India. This consortium is available in three models. Presently all the IITs, IISc, NITs, IIMs and most of the regional engineering colleges are its members. This consortium subscribes over 4250 e-journals. The consortium being an open ended proposition, welcomes institutions to join it on their own for sharing maximum benefits. It offers in terms of lower subscription rates and better terms of agreement with the publishers. All electronic resources being subscribed shall be available from the publisher’s websites. The membership of the consortium is open to any private or government funded Engineering/Technological/Educational Institutions/Universities for one or more electronic resources. The consortium will charge nominal annual fee for its services.

1.5.4.4 UGC INFONET

INFLIBNET launched an e-journal consortium on 6th April 2003 by the then President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, which is known as UGC-INFONET. This consortium has been setup by the chairman UGC to promote the use of electronic databases and full text access to journals by the research and academic community in the country. The faculty, research scholars and students of universities covered under UGC are the primary beneficiaries of this consortium.

UGC will bear the entire expenses for UGC funded Universities for providing e-journals access on behalf of participating universities. INFLIBNET center, an IUC of UGC will subscribe resources based on the recommendation of National Negotiating
Committee setup by UGC in the 10th plan period. The consortium covers all the disciplines viz. pure sciences, social sciences and Humanities including management and language.

1.5.4.5 J-GATE CUSTOM CONTENT CONSORTIA (JCCC)

JCCC is an electronic gateway to global e-journal literature, launched in 2001 by informatics India Limited. It provides sample access to millions of journal articles available online. It presently has a massive database of journal literature indexed from about 11,800+ e-journals with links to full text at publisher sites. J-Gate is providing table of contents for more than 11500 e-journals and more than 3 million articles. Search is provided by journal title, keyword, subject categories and year of publications. Basic bibliographic data with abstracts are also provided. 21

1.5.4.6 HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY AND INFORMATION NETWORK CONSORTIUM (HELINET)

HELINET is a health sciences library consortium established by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka by networking libraries in all colleges under the university to promote cooperative procurement and resource sharing. The main motto of HELINET is networking all the libraries under RGUHS for minimizing the cost of acquisition and maintenance of resources and maximizing their utilization among the users of the colleges of the university. It provides access to around 600 international biomedical journals at about one third prices of their print subscription. The member colleges can get all time access to the current journals and archives for period of 7-10 years. 22

1.6. NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In the present era of information explosion, more and more publications are becoming web concerned. Most of the science and technology libraries have changed the contemporary outlook towards their functions and services. The environment is rapidly changing to electronic environment. So the investigator
decided to conduct the study for measuring the use of e-journals by the PG students of the Faculty of Medicine in AMU, Aligarh.

1.7 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem selected for the present study is entitled “Use of e-journals by the PG students of the Faculty of Medicine, AMU, Aligarh: A survey”.

1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Use: Oxford English Dictionary defined Use as “to follow or exercise; to discharge the functions”.

E-Journals: According to Encyclopedia of Librarianship and Information Science E-journal is “a term used to describe a journal that is published in digital form to be displayed on a computer screen”.

Postgraduate: According to Collin’s English Dictionary and Thesaurus, “Postgraduate is a student who has obtained a degree from a university and is pursuing studies for a more advanced qualification”

Student: According to Oxford English Dictionary, “student is a person studying at a university or college”

Faculty: Oxford English Dictionary defined Faculty as “the branch or department of knowledge”

Medicine: According to Oxford English Dictionary, “Medicine is the science or the practice of treatment and prevention of disease”.

AMU: The AMU is a residential academic institution, which was established in 1875 by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan as a college and became university in 1920. It is a well-known University of international repute having variety of modern and traditional facilities.

Aligarh: Aligarh is a city, located in Uttar Pradesh, famous for Aligarh Muslim University.

Survey: According to Tull and Albaum “survey is concerned with the art of science of asking questions and/or observing behaviors to obtain information”
1.9 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of the present study entitled “Use of e-journals by the PG students of the Faculty of Medicine, AMU, Aligarh: A survey” was to find the use level of e-journals in the Faculty of Medicine in AMU, Aligarh. The investigator was able to identify some of the major limitations such as:

(i) The present study consists of only the e-journals users.

(ii) The geographical area is restricted in the Faculty of Medicine, AMU, Aligarh only.
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