

An Explorative Study on Access to Print and Electronic Information Resources among Journalists in Mysore and Mandya District of Karnataka

Abstract

This explorative study focuses on access to print and electronic information resources among journalists in Mysore and Mandya district of Karnataka, India. The researchers tried to analyze frequency of library visits, average time spent, use of print and electronic information resources, criteria for evaluation of information resources, usage of social networks for accessing and sharing information, rating of online resources based on its features, preferred format of information resources, factors influencing for use of e-resources and to know the importance of e-resources for journalistic tasks. For this purpose the researchers prepared a well structured questionnaire as a tool for data collection and the collected questionnaire has been analyzed and presented with useful percentage analysis, Anova, Mean, Standard Deviation and suitable tables for presentation of data. It has been found from the study that the journalists prefer both print and electronic format of information resources. Hence, the libraries should maintain both format of information resources till the users inculcate the habit of using information resources available in electronic format.

Keywords: Electronic Information Resources, Information Seeking Behavior, Print resources, Web Resources, E-Resources.

1. Introduction

Information plays an unavoidable role in our professional and personal lives. People need information to work properly in their respective areas. The advent of technology introduced into both newsrooms and the media culture in the past decade has changed the needs and habits of print and electronic journalists. The Journalists working in print and electronic media organizations need current, authoritative and factual information to construct the news and programmers. There is an enormous need to identify the need of journalists because they are information users as well as information producers and information disseminators. It is necessary to find, which are the media Information Sources available? What the journalists prefer to get information from the library, web and other source? What is the awareness among the journalists in the Mysore and Mandya districts about available media information resources and services? Hence, present study was carried out on journalists in Mysore and Mandya districts in Karnataka to know the accessibility of print and electronic information resources.

2. Review of Literature

The importance and wide ranging scope of use of print and electronic resources for general communication and information retrieval to support journalistic activities. The literature also shows that a number of relevant studies have been carried out on the using

print and electronic resources. Rosamma Joseph [1], in 1993 studied on “How Indian Journalists Use Libraries”. The results of that study showed that the journalists working on the eight Kerala newspapers used libraries for conducting any research on their news, which were published in these Kerala newspapers. This study concluded that there was a room for improvement in the collections and services of the libraries concerned. Gupta [2], in 2012 studied on information needs and information and sought behavior of print and electronic media journalists in M.P. with special reference to Rewa division. The findings of this research showed that maximum numbers of journalists were graduate, maximum number of journalist preferred to visit personally to obtain information, maximum number of journalists desired to avail library services free of cost and few journalists prefer fee-based library services in both print media and electronic media. Obijoor [3], in 2013 conduct a studied on “News channels professionals’ Perceptions and Use of the Internet as a News Channel” and observed that news channels professionals relied basically on internet as most popular source for news. Results from this study showed that news channels professionals were highly selective of the news media for satisfaction their news needs. Gurdev Singh [4], in 2013 examined the information behaviors of New Delhi newspapers journalists. Study found that the information needs of the journalists studied matched the information gathering behaviors observed. Most of the journalist uses the periodicals, news magazines, current issues of newspapers, newspaper clipping files and dictionaries/ biographical dictionaries are most frequently used sources of information by them. Kumara [5], in 2017 highlighted the information needs and seeking behavior of television media professionals in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The study covered aspects of media information resources usage such as awareness, frequency and place of access, awareness of the availability of information resources, learn to use, purpose and benefits, rating of electronic information resources based on their features, preferred search engines, The overall attitude towards the use of information resources among television media professional was shown to be very positive. Further, the usage of these resources can be increased if users are motivated to use these services in the media library by providing them help in searching and downloading the information.

3. Objectives

The core objectives behind conducting the study are:

1. To know the frequency of visit and average time spent in the library by the journalists.
2. To identify the preferred print and electronic formats of information resources.
3. To assess the role of web for various journalistic tasks.
4. To know the criteria for evaluation of information resources.
5. To examine the usage of social networks for accessing and sharing information.
6. To identify the factors influencing the use of e-resources for journalistic tasks.

4. Scope, Limitations and Methodology

The scope of the study is restricted to access to print and electronic information resources among journalists in Mysore and Mandya district of Karnataka. The survey

method was adopted, using questionnaire as a tool for data collection. A structured questionnaire was designed and distributed among the journalists. Out of 226 questionnaires distributed among journalist, 184 filled in questionnaires were received back amounting 81.41%. In addition to questionnaire method, interview schedule were also used to collect required information as a supplement to the questionnaire method.

5. Data Analysis

The data was collected by different methods were analyzed and interpreted and the same is presented in the following tables.

5.1. Library Visit

The information gathered about library visit and frequency of visits by the journalists has been summarized in Table-1 . The Table-1 depicts that 178 (41.30%) of journalists visit the library for accessing information resources and 06 (01.09%) do not visit the library. The Table-1 also depicts that, Out of 106 respondents from Mysore, 102 (96.23%) of journalists visit the library and 04 (03.77%) of journalists do not visit. Out of 78 respondents from Mandya, 76 (97.44%) of journalists visit the library and 02 (02.56%) do not visit the library.

Table-1: Library Visit

Visit to the Library	Mysore (N=106)	Mandya (N=78)	Total (N=184)
Yes	102(96.23)	76(97.44)	178(41.30)
No	04(03.77)	02(02.56)	06(01.09)
Frequency of Visits to the Library			
Daily	21(19.81)	16(20.51)	37(20.11)
Twice in a Week	32(30.19)	23(29.49)	55(29.89)
Once in a Week	10(09.43)	15(19.23)	25(13.59)
Fortnightly	17(16.04)	06(07.69)	23(12.50)
Monthly	04(03.77)	07(08.97)	11(05.98)
Occasionally	18(16.98)	09(11.54)	27(14.67)
Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage.			

The Table-1 also depicts that 55(29.89%) of journalists visit the library ‘Twice in a Week’, followed by 37(20.11%) visit daily, 27(14.67%) occasionally, 25(13.59%) Once in a Week, 23(12.50%) Fortnightly, 11(05.98%) of journalists Monthly visit the library for accessing information resources. It is clear from Table-1 that 32(30.19%) of journalists from Mysore and 23(29.49%) from Mandya district visit the library twice in a week.

5.2. Average Time Spent in the library

The average time spent in the library during the visit by the journalists has been summarized in Table-2. The Table-2 depicts that 50 (28.08%) of journalists spend '30-45 Minutes' in a library, 49 (27.52%) spend '45 Minutes to 1 Hour', 44(24.72%) spend 'Less than 30 Minutes', 21(11.80%) spend '1 to 2 Hours' and 14(07.87%) of journalists spend 'Above 2 Hours' in a library. The Table-2 also depicts that 38(37.25%) of journalists from Mysore spend '30-45 Minutes' in the library and 27(35.53%) of journalists spend '45 Minutes to 1 Hour' in the library.

Time-2: Average Time Spent in the Library

Time	Mysore (N=102)	Mandya (N=76)	Total (N=178)
Less than 30 Minutes	21(20.59)	23(30.26)	44(24.72)
30-45 Minutes	38(37.25)	12(15.79)	50 (28.08)
45 Minutes to 1 Hour	22(21.57)	27(35.53)	49 (27.52)
1 to 2 Hours	13(12.75)	08(10.53)	21(11.80)
Above 2 Hours	08(07.84)	06(07.89)	14(07.87)
Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage.			

5.3. Use of Print Information Resources

The use of print information resources by the journalists has been summarized in Table-3. The Table-3 depicts that 101(31.79%) of journalists access newspapers, followed by 91(28.09%) to refer books, 85(25.13%) magazines, 65(21.44%) reports, 55(17.00%) Statistical sources, 49(19.22%) government gazette, 45(17.74%) pictures, 40(15.52%) news bulletins, 31(13.31%) maps, 30(09.61%) journals, 23(06.65%) proceedings and 19(08.13%) of journalists visit to refer directories. The Table-3 also depicts that 58(56.86%) of journalists from Mysore and 43(56.58%) from Mandya visit the library to use newspapers.

Table-3: Use of Print Information Resources

Print Information Resources	Mysore (N=102)	Mandya (N=76)	Total (N=178)
Newspapers	58(56.86)	43(56.58)	101(31.79)
Reports	36(35.29)	29(38.16)	65(21.44)
Magazines	51(50.00)	34(44.74)	85(25.13)
Books	53(51.96)	38(50.00)	91(28.09)
Pictures	21(20.59)	24(31.58)	45(17.74)
Journals	17(16.67)	13(17.11)	30(09.61)
Statistical sources	32(31.37)	23(30.26)	55(17.00)
Maps	13(12.75)	18(23.68)	31(13.31)
News Bulletins	19(18.63)	21(27.63)	40(15.52)
Govt. Gazette	23(22.55)	26(34.21)	49(19.22)
Proceedings	14(13.73)	09(11.84)	23(06.65)
Directories	08(07.84)	11(14.47)	19(08.13)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage and because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%

5.4. Use of Electronic Information Resources

The use of electronic information resources by the journalists has been summarized in Table-4. The Table-4 depicts that 169(94.94%) of journalists use E-Newspapers, 122(68.54%) E-References, 116(65.17%) Press Releases, 82(46.07%) E-Pictures/ Graphics, 81(45.50%) Websites, 80(44.94%) online statistical sources, 73(41.01%) Online Audio/ Videos resources, 69(38.76%) news bulletins, 55(30.90%) online gazette, 46(25.84%) online cartographic materials, 40(22.47%) e-magazines, 35(19.66%) e-journals, 34(19.90%) e-directories, 29(16.29%) e-proceedings, 27(15.16%) of journalists use e-reports. The Table-4 also depicts that 98(96.08%) of journalists from Mysore and 71(93.42%) from Mandya use e-newspapers.

Table-4: Use of Electronic Information Resources

Electronic Information Resources	Mysore (N=102)	Mandya (N=76)	Total (N=178)
E-Newspapers	98(96.08)	71(93.42)	169(94.94)
E-Reports	12(11.76)	15(19.73)	27(15.16)
E-Magazines	21(20.56)	19(25.00)	40(22.47)
E-References	76(74.51)	46(60.53)	122(68.54)
E-Pictures/ Graphics	43(42.16)	39(51.32)	82(46.07)
E-Journals	21(20.59)	14(18.42)	35(19.66)
Online Statistical sources	44(43.14)	36(47.37)	80(44.94)
Online Cartographic Resources	29(28.43)	17(22.37)	46(25.84)
News Bulletins	57(55.88)	12(15.79)	69(38.76)
Online Gazette	36(35.29)	19(25.00)	55(30.90)
E-Proceedings	19(18.63)	10(13.15)	29(16.29)
E-Directories	22(21.57)	12(15.79)	34(19.90)
Press Releases	73(71.57)	43(56.58)	116(65.17)
Online Audio/ Videos	44(43.14)	29(38.16)	73(41.01)
Websites	39(38.24)	42(55.26)	81(45.50)
Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage and because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%			

5.5. Criteria for Evaluation of Information Resources

The criteria for evaluation of information resources by the journalists has been summarized in Table-5. The Table-5 depicts that 170(95.51%) of journalists evaluate information resources by accuracy of information, 151(84.83%) authority of publishers, 145(81.46%) updated information, 137(76.97%) coverage of topic, 107(60.11%) quick retrieval of relevant information, 102(57.30%) convenience in obtaining information, 93(52.25%) objectivity of publisher and 88(49.44%) of journalist evaluate information

resources by the cost of obtaining information. The Table-5 also depicts that 96 (94.12%) of journalists from Mysore and 74(97.37%) of journalists from Mandya evaluate information resources by the accuracy of information.

Table-5: Criteria for Evaluation of Information Resources

Criteria	Mysore (N=102)	Mandya (N=76)	Total (N=178)
Accuracy of Information	96(94.12)	74(97.37)	170(95.51)
Authority of Publishers	89(87.25)	62(81.58)	151(84.83)
Coverage of topic	81(79.41)	56(73.68)	137(76.97)
Updated Information	76(74.51)	69(90.79)	145(81.46)
Objectivity of publisher	72(70.59)	21(27.63)	93(52.25)
Convenience in obtaining information	66(64.71)	36(47.37)	102(57.30)
Cost of obtaining information	57(55.88)	31(40.79)	88(49.44)
Quick Retrieval of Relevant information	73(71.57)	34(44.74)	107(60.11)
Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage and because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%			

5.6. Usage of Social Networks for Accessing and Sharing Information

The usage of social networks for accessing and sharing information by the journalists has been summarized in Table-6. The Table-6 depicts that 155(87.08%) of journalists use Whatsapp, 150(84.27) use Face Book, 126(70.79%) YouTube, 31(17.42%) Instagram, 30(16.85%) LinkedIn, 28(15.73%) Twitter, 26(14.61%) Google+, 14(07.87%) Flicker, 13(07.30%) Meetup and 09(02.81%) of journalists use others social networking sites like Ibibo, hi5, Quora, Tumblr etc. The Table-6 also depicts that 84(82.35%) of journalists from Mysore and 71(93.42%) from Mandya use Whatsapp for accessing and sharing information.

Table-6: Usage of Social Networks for Accessing and Sharing Information

Social Networks	Mysore (N=102)	Mandya (N=76)	Total (N=178)	Mean	SD
Whatsapp	84(82.35)	71(93.42)	155(87.08)	1.46	1.21
Twitter	16(15.69)	12(15.78)	28(15.73)	1.47	1.21
Face book	81(79.41)	69(90.79)	150(84.27)	1.46	1.21
Instagram	19(18.63)	12(15.79)	31(17.42)	1.39	1.18
LinkedIn	21(20.59)	09(11.84)	30(16.85)	1.30	1.14
YouTube	64(62.75)	62(81.58)	126(70.79)	1.49	1.22
Meetup	06(05.88)	07(09.21)	13(07.30)	1.54	1.24
Google+	14(13.73)	12(15.79)	26(14.61)	1.46	1.21
Flicker	09(08.82)	05(06.58)	14(07.87)	1.36	1.17
Others like Ibibo, hi5, Quora, Tumblr etc.	06(05.88)	03(03.95)	09(02.81)	1.33	1.15
Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage and because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%					

5.7. Rating of Online Resources Based on its Features

The rating of online resources based on its features by the journalists has been summarized in Table-7. The Table-7 depicts that 72(40.45%) of journalists rate easy to use feature as 'Agree', followed by 71(39.89%) rate accessibility as 'Strongly Agree', 59(33.15%) rate speed of access as 'Strongly Agree', 65(36.52%) rate relevancy as 'Strongly Agree', 64(35.96%) rate comprehensiveness as 'Strongly Agree', 74(41.57%) rate flexibility as 'Agree', 82(46.07%) rate 24X7 Access 'Strongly Agree', 65(36.52%) rate organized information as 'Agree' and 72(40.45%) of journalists rate effective retrieval of relevant information as 'Agree'.

Table-7: Rating of Online Resources Based on its Features

Features	Strongly Agree	Agree	Moderately Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Mean	SD
Easy to Use	40(22.47)	72(40.45)	53(29.78)	09(05.06)	04(02.25)	2.24	0.93
Accessibility	71(39.89)	46(25.84)	55(30.90)	05(02.81)	01(0.56)	1.98	0.93
Speed of Access	59(33.15)	53(29.78)	48(26.97)	12(06.74)	06(03.37)	2.17	1.07
Relevancy	65(36.52)	56(31.46)	42(23.60)	06(03.37)	09(05.06)	2.08	1.09
Comprehensiveness	64(35.96)	38(21.35)	52(29.21)	22(12.36)	02(01.12)	2.21	1.10
Flexibility	41(23.03)	74(41.57)	50(28.09)	10(05.62)	03(01.69)	2.21	0.92
24X7 Access	82(46.07)	72(40.45)	17(09.55)	04(02.25)	03(01.69)	1.73	0.85
Organized Information	63(35.39)	65(36.52)	39(21.91)	07(03.93)	04(02.25)	2.01	0.97
Effective Retrieval of Relevant Information	40(22.47)	72(40.45)	53(29.78)	09(05.06)	04(02.25)	2.24	0.93

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage.

5.8. Preferred Format of Information Resources

The preferred format of information resources by the journalists has been summarized in Table-8. The Table-8 depicts that 112(62.92%) of journalists prefer both print and electronic format of information resources, followed by 77(43.26%) prefer electronic and 45(25.28%) prefer print format of information resources. The table-8 also depicts that 79(77.45%) of journalist from Mysore and 33(43.42%) of journalists from Mandya prefer both print and electronic information resources.

Table-8: Preferred Format of Information Resources

Preferred Format	Mysore (N=102)	Mandya (N=76)	Total (N=178)
Print	26(25.49)	19(25.00)	45(25.28)
Electronic	53(51.96)	24(31.58)	77(43.26)
Both Print and Electronic	79(77.45)	33(43.42)	112(62.92)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage.

5.9 Factors Influencing for Use of Electronic Resources for Journalistic Task

The factors influencing for use of electronic resources for journalistic task by the journalists has been summarized in Table-9. The Table-9 depicts that 64(35.96%) of journalists are sometimes influenced by the factor 'Through the Internet I often find new informants/experts', followed by 74(41.57%) sometimes influenced by factor of 'Through the Internet I often find new information sources', 62(34.845) constantly influenced by factor of 'I often use the Internet when searching for an idea for coverage', 86(48.31%)) constantly influenced by factor of 'The Internet as source for new ideas/information', 72(40.4%) sometimes influenced by factor of 'Efficiency can be gained by the Internet', 71(39.89%) rarely influenced by factor of 'Credibility in the Internet information', 83(46.63%) rarely influenced by factor of 'Credibility on governmental and non-governmental websites' and 88(49.44%) of journalists are consistently influenced by factor of 'The Internet is a good tool for finding information'.

Table-9: Factors Influencing for Use of Electronic Resources for Journalistic Task

Factors	Consistently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Mean	SD
Through the Internet I often find new informants/experts	48(26.97)	64(35.96)	61(34.27)	05(02.81)	2.12	0.84
Through the Internet I often find new information sources	56(31.46)	74(41.57)	45(25.28)	03(01.69)	1.97	0.79
I often use the Internet when searching for an idea for coverage	62(34.84)	52(29.21)	57(32.02)	07(03.93)	2.05	0.90
The Internet as source for new ideas/information	86(48.31)	35(19.66)	46(25.84)	11(06.18)	1.89	0.98
Efficiency can be gained by the Internet	68(38.20)	72(40.45)	34(19.10)	04(02.25)	1.85	0.80
Credibility in the Internet information	40(22.47)	59(33.15)	71(39.89)	08(04.49)	2.26	0.85
Credibility on governmental and non-governmental websites	43(24.16)	49(27.53)	83(46.63)	03(01.69)	2.25	0.84
The Internet is a good tool for finding information	88(49.44)	31(17.42)	54(30.34)	05(02.81)	1.86	0.94
Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage and because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%						
ANOVA Single Factor						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F Crit
Between Groups	16218.75	3	5406.25	25.7912	3.29E-08	2.946685
Within Groups	5869.25	28	209.6161			

5.10. Rate the Importance of Electronic Resources for Journalistic Task

The rate the importance of electronic resources for journalistic task by the journalists has been summarized in Table-10. The Table-10 depicts that 73(41.01%) of journalists rate as highly important, 41(23.03%) rate as important, 38(21.35%) rate as moderately important, 21(11.80%) rate as Farley important and 05(02.81%) of journalist rate importance of electronic resources as not important. The Table-10 also depicts that 57(55.82%) of journalists form Mysore rate importance of electronic resources as highly important and 24(31.58%) of journalists form Mandya rate importance of electronic resources as moderately important .

Table-10: Rate the Importance of Electronic Resources for Journalistic Task

Rating	Mysore (N=102)	Mandya (N=76)	Total (N=178)
Highly Important	57(55.82)	16(21.05)	73(41.01)
Important	20(19.61)	21(27.63)	41(23.03)
Moderately Important	14(13.73)	24(31.58)	38(21.35)
Farley Important	09(08.82)	12(15.79)	21(11.80)
Not Important	02(01.96)	03(03.95)	05(02.81)

6. Major Findings

The major findings of the study are:

- About 178 (41.30%) of journalists visit the library for accessing information resources and 06 (01.09%) do not visit the library.
- Majority of 50 (28.08%) of journalists spend '30-45 Minutes' in a library and 49 (27.52%) spend '45 Minutes to 1 Hour' for accessing print and electronic information resources.
- About 101(31.79%) of journalists access newspapers and 91(28.09%) to refer books and 85(25.13%) magazines. Majority of 169(94.94%) of journalists use E-Newspapers and 122(68.54%) E-References resources.
- Majority of 170(95.51%) of journalists evaluate information resources by accuracy of information and 155(87.08%) of journalists use Whatsapp for accessing and sharing information.
- About 72(40.45%) of journalists rate online information resources as 'Agree' towards the option 'Easy to use features' and 112(62.92%) of journalists prefer both print and electronic format of information resources.
- Majority of 64(35.96%) of journalists are sometimes influenced by the factor 'Through the Internet I often find new informants/experts' and 73(41.01%) of journalists rate importance of electronic resources for journalistic task as highly important.

7. Conclusion

In present scenario libraries landscape is more vibrant than ever, offering faster and easy dissemination of information and make fewer barriers to access and more ways for using information. For the fulfillment of users information needs library professionals using various tools in system model design, information repackaging, and dissemination of information. Due to development in the area of internet and information technology, more and more of the educational resources are being produced, distributed and accessed in the digital format. The journalists should become familiar with latest search patterns for better utilization of available web based information resources. It is clear from the study that the journalists prefer both print and electronic format of information resources. Hence, the libraries should maintain both format of information resources till the users inculcate the habit of using only electronic format of information resources. The journalist associations, professional bodies should organize seminars and workshops for journalists at regular interval of time to keep them in tune with latest patterns of information resources.

8. Suggestions and Recommendations

Based on the above results the following suggestions and recommendations are made for further improvement in utilization of print and electronic information resources among journalists in Mysore and Mandya district of Karnataka.

- Large number of information resources are made available in electronic format. Hence, the library authorities should create awareness among journalist to insist them to use the electronic format of information resources to maximum extent.
- The journalist should be trained to improve their information searching skills to make better use of largely available web information resources.
- The internet service providers should extent high speed internet facility to remote areas in the districts for providing better access to internet, so that information resources can to utilized to maximum extent.
- The professional bodies, institutions, should organize seminars, workshops and training for journalists at regular interval of time to keep them in tune with latest patterns of information resources.

COMPETING INTERESTS DISCLAIMER:

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist. The products used for this research are commonly and predominantly use products in our area of research and country. There is absolutely no conflict of interest between the authors and producers of the products because we do not intend to use these products as an avenue for any litigation but for the advancement of knowledge. Also, the research was not funded by the producing company rather it was funded by personal efforts of the authors.

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