

# The Status of Electronic Journals in India from 2006-2015 - A Brief Study

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## Abstract

Electronic journals in India have grown exponentially. The aim of this work is to examine the nature and growth of electronic journals that have been assigned ISSN from 2006 to 2015 by National Science Library, New Delhi. It covers a total of 5979 electronic journals with assigned ISSN.

**Keywords:** Electronic Journals, India, ISSN

## 1. Introduction

Digital revolution has brought about tremendous changes in academic research in every discipline. The advent of Internet and e-journals have both facilitated and changed the process of academic research. E-Journals are a vital source of information for academic research and development. The advantages of the electronic journals are easy, 'anywhere anytime' accessibility, shareability, hyperlink facility to related texts, cost effectiveness and obviation of the storage problem encountered in the case of print journals. Many Open access E-Journals are available through Internet.

E-journals are becoming popular among users due to their various advantages over print journals. The electronic journals can be accessed through different ways such as through Library websites, Publishers' websites, Search Engines, Subject Gateways, Subject Portals, etc. These e-journals are available in the form of CD, DVD or other storage devices; and via library consortium, etc.

Garg and Pateria (2010) have categorized e-journals into three categories: Subscription based, Open Access and Consortia based, in accordance with their modes of availability. Subscription based journals may have some papers on open access. Likewise, consortia-based journals

are basically subscription based journals and when they are subscribed by a group of libraries by forming a consortium, they are called consortia-based journals.

## 2. Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to study the performance of ISSN- assigned electronic journals during 2006-15 in India. Besides, this study focuses on the following objectives.

To study the number of ISSN-assigned electronic journals, their frequency and distribution

## 3. Literature Review

The first electronic journals appeared in the Seventies. They were not available to a wide range of customers; that is one of the motives why they had been now not enormous (Tenopir, 2000). The arrival of Net triggered a growth in the number of e-journals and since 1995 there has been a significant increase in their numbers.

Bar-Ilan and Fink (2005) surveyed the use of printed and electronic journals in a science library and showed that use of electronic journals has increased; age and or academic position was inversely related to the use of electronic media and journals; there was a gradual reduction in the use of printed journals as users preferred

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and used the electronic format more frequently; The use of a journal was not necessarily an indication of the preference of users. Accessibility and desktop access, home access, ease of retrieval, and hyperlinks to outside content were the advantages of electronic journals and the disadvantage of electronic journals mentioned were the lack of back issues and problems with reading a text on the computer screen.

Omotayo’s (2011) finding shows that majority of respondents prefer electronic journals traditional print journals. All respondents believed that use will continue to increase in the coming years. It showed that only 35% of the respondents had published in electronic journals.

Kickuk’s (2010) study, “Electronic collection growth: an academic library case study”, noted that “many academic library staff express feelings of being overwhelmed or frustrated by the rapid growth and violability associated with electronic collection and their impact on public and technical services”. The author undertook the study to analyse the growth of E-Journals and E-Resources and the internal and external impacts. The implication of this study for academic libraries is that the growth of E-Resources needs to be properly managed if users must enjoy the full potential offered by e-resources.

### 4. Methodology

The data for the present study was retrieved from the official website of National Science Library (2016), New Delhi for the period of 2006 to 2015. The data retrieved from the website was totally in raw and unstructured form; it was first structured to suit the requirements of the study.

### 5. Data Analysis and Interpretation

**Table 1.** Year-wise ISSN assigned electronic journals

Year	Journals	%	Growth
2006	14	0.23	55
2007	69	1.15	74
2008	143	2.39	66

2009	209	3.50	309
2010	518	8.66	255
2011	773	12.93	321
2012	1094	18.30	-52
2013	1042	17.43	44
2014	1086	18.16	-57
2015	1029	17.21	--
Not mentioned	2	0.03	

Table 1 shows that largest growth was registered in the year 2011 and indicates that 84.03% of the total publications emerged during the last 5 years i.e., during 2011-2015. There is a negative growth rate in the year 2014. For two journals the year ISSN was assigned is not mentioned.

**Table 2.** State-wise distribution of ISSN assigned electronic journals in India

State	No.	%	Rank
Tamil Nadu	937	15.67152	1
Maharashtra	812	13.58087	2
Uttar Pradesh	713	11.92507	3
Delhi	711	11.89162	4
Madhya Pradesh	575	9.616993	5
Haryana	285	4.766683	6
Gujarat	244	4.08095	7
Karnataka	214	3.579194	8
Telangana	208	3.478843	9
Rajasthan	207	3.462117	10
Andhra Pradesh	168	2.809834	11
West Bengal	166	2.776384	12
Punjab	128	2.140826	13
Kerala	110	1.839773	14
State Not Mentioned	77	1.287841	
Other Sates	424	7.091487	

Table 2 reflects the contribution of different states of India Tamil Nadu occupies the top position having 937 electronic journals, which constitutes 15.67% of the total e-journals available in India. It is followed by Maharashtra with 812 journals (13.59); Uttar Pradesh with 713 journals (11.92%); Delhi with 711 journals (11.89%). Delhi, Chennai and Bhopal are the top publishers of e-journals.

**Table 3.** Language-wise distribution of electronic journals

Language	No.	Language	No.	Language	No.
Eng/Hindi/Marathi	23	English	5568	English/Hindi	103
Eng/Hindi/Gujarati	12	Multiple	96	Eng/Bengali	14
Eng/Hindi/Punjabi	3	Hindi	26	Eng/Tamil	4
Eng/Hindi/Bengali	2	Arabic	5	Eng/Sanskrit	2
Eng/Hindi/Assamese	1	Malayalam	5	Eng/Telugu	2
Eng/Hindi/Urdu	1	Tamil	5	Hindi/Sanskrit	2
Eng/Hin/Punjabi/Urdu	1	Assamese	3	Eng/Assamese	1
		Gujarati	2	Eng/Gujarati	1
		Marathi	2	Eng/Kannada	1
		Sanskrit	2	Eng/Malayalam	1
		Telugu	2	Eng/Marathi	1
		Bhojpuri	1	Eng/Urdu	1
		Maithili	1	Urdu/Persian	1
		Urdu	1		
	<b>43</b>		<b>5719</b>		<b>134</b>

Table 3, it is seen that a clear majority of journals i.e., 5719 (95.65%) are monolingual that includes English 5568(93.12%) and Hindi 26(0.43%), some bilingual and multilingual e-journals.

Out of 5979 electronic journals (Table 4), most of the journals are online journals and only 15 journals are published in the form of CD ROM.

**Table 4.** Mode of publication

Type	No. of electronic journals
CD ROM	15
Online	5964
<b>Total</b>	<b>5979</b>

**Table 5.** E-Journals from different places with the same title

Sl. No.	Title	Place	Year
1.	Allelopathy Journal	New Delhi	1988
		Hisar	2006
2.	Asian Journal of Pharmaceutical Research	Chennai	2011
		Raipur	2011
3	Indian Journal of Economics and Development	New Delhi	2005
		Chennai	2013
4.	Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics	New Delhi	1970
		New Delhi	2010
5.	Innovations in Pharmaceuticals and Pharmacotherapy	Aurangabad	2012
		Aurangabad	2013

6.	International Journal of Advanced Research in Engineering and Applied Sciences	Yamuna Nagar	2012
		Amritsar	2014
7.	International Journal of Advances in Engineering Science and Technology	Chennai	2011
		Bulandshahr	2012
8.	International Journal of Applied Engineering Research	New Delhi	2005
		Dindigul	2010
9.	International Journal of Chemical Science and Technology	Kochi	2011
		Kumbakonam	2011
10.	International Journal of Computer Engineering and Sciences	Bareilly	2011
		Anand	2014
11.	International journal of engineering and allied sciences	Gandhinagar	2011
		Greater Noida	2015
12.	International Journal of Engineering Research and Reviews	Lucknow	2013
		Meerut	2013
13.	International Journal of Engineering Science and Management	Indore	2011
		Bulandshahr	2015
14.	International journal of environmental sciences	Dindigul	2010
		Dehradun	2012
15.	International journal of financial management	New Delhi	2011
		Chennai	2012
16.	International Journal of Life Sciences	Dehradun	2012
		Jhunjhunu	2012
		Amravati	2013
17.	International Journal of Multidisciplinary Health Sciences	Amravati	2014
		Islampur	2014
18.	International journal of organic and bio organic chemistry	Bhubaneswar	2011
		Kochi	2011
19.	International Journal of Pharmacy	Chennai	2011
		Hyderabad	2011
20.	International Journal of Research in Engineering and applied Sciences	Yamuna Nagar	2011
		Nagpur	2014
21.	International journal of research in science and technology	Ghaziabad	2011
		Guwahati	2014
22.	International Journal of Scientific Research Engineering and Technology	Ghaziabad	2012
		Bhopal	2015
23.	Journal of Ayurveda and Holistic Medicine	Ilkal	2013
		Hubli	2014
24.	Journal of Science	Chennai	2011
		Delhi	2015
25.	Medical Science	Chandannagore	2013
		Chennai	2013
26.	Oncology, Gastroenterology and Hepatology Reports	Bangalore	2012
		Mumbai	2014
27.	Research journal of chemical sciences	Indore	2011
		Indore	2012

Table 5, it is found that there are 27 electronic journals that are being published from different places with different ISSN numbers but with the same journal title. Three electronic journals are published from different places under the title “International Journal of Life Sciences” with different ISSN numbers. A few journals also seem to carry more than one ISSN. Most e-journals published in India are quarterly, or half-yearly or monthly.

## 6. Findings

- It is found that 2011 witnessed a high growth rate with 321 journals;
- The state of Tamil Nadu produces the maximum number of electronic journals with ISSN numbers;
- Among cities New Delhi was found to occupy first place with 600 of electronic journals;
- The language wise publication of electronic journals seems to be dominated by monolingual journals, led by English and followed by Hindi language. Only one electronic journal being published with content in multiple languages i.e., English, Hindi Punjabi and Urdu;
- Most e-journals are published online. The number of e-journals published on CD-ROM is negligible; and
- There are quite a few e-journals with the same title; and some e-journals have more than one ISSN.

## 7. Conclusion

This study aimed at studying the status of e- journals in India from 2006-15 shows an upward trend in the

production of scholarly e-journals. There is a need to standardize procedures for assigning titles and ISSNs to e-journals so as to avoid confusion among subscribers and end users.

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