

Scholarly Information Seeking Patterns of Academic Engineers and Technologists

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Introduction

- Engineers and Technologists Utilize both Formal and Informal Information Sources
- Researchers (Engel, Robbins and Kulp, 2011; Levine, Allard and Tenopir, 2011; Fiedel and Green, 2004; Kwasitsu, 2003; Bigdeli, 2007) conducted studies to explore information seeking habits of both academic and practitioner engineers....

Introduction

- Academic engineers primarily relied on scholarly journal articles, WWW and face to face discussion. However, practitioner engineers depended on colleagues and internal reports.
- Very few studies investigated scholarly information seeking behavior of academic engineers particularly in relation to e-journals use patterns.
- The purpose of this study was to investigate academic engineers' scholarly information seeking habits with particular reference to e-journals use behavior.

Research Questions

- What are the most used and least used information sources of the academic engineers and technologists' for teaching, research and keeping up-to-date?
- What are academic staff's purposes of using e-journals?
- How does academic staff identify, access and search e-journal articles?

Design of the Study

- Quantitative design based on Survey Method
- Survey Instrument: Questionnaire
- Targeted Population of the Study
- Data Collection

Results of the Study

Most Used Information Sources for Scholarly Tasks

- E-journals and E-books
29 (76 %) and 28 (76 %)
- Discussion with Colleagues
24 (63 %)
- Electronic Research Reports
22 (58 %)

Least Used Information Sources

- Library Print Information Sources
15 (39 %)
- Online Indexing and Abstracting Services
12 (37 %)

Sources of Accessing E-journal Articles

- General Search Engines 33 (92 %)
- Google Scholar 30 (83 %)
- Open Access E-journal Websites 24 (67 %)

Least Used Sources of Accessing E-journal Articles

- E-journal Articles through Department's Library 12 (33 %)
- Higher Education Commission E-journals 11 (31 %)
- Author's Personal Website 5 (14 %)

Purposes of Using E-journals

- To keep themselves up to date with their subject
23 (64 %)
- Supervising researchers
22 (63 %)
- Writing Conference Papers
15 (42 %)

Methods to become aware of articles

- Searching (i.e. by author or title name) 30 (86 %)
- By picking titles from reference list of publications 26 (72 %)
- E - Mail alerts of chosen E-Journal 17 (47 %)

Search Strategies

- Title words 31 (86 %)
- Keyword searching 24 (67 %)
- Author words 14 (40 %)

Conclusions

- Academic engineers and technologists most used information sources for teaching, research and keeping up-to-date activities are e-journals, e-books, discussion with colleagues and e-reports.
- Both e-journals and e-books were equally important for academic engineers.
- Use of print information sources and online indexing and abstracting services was less among engineers and technologists

Conclusions

- More use of open access sources of e-journal articles – Google, Google Scholar and Open access e-journal websites
- Less use of HEC subscribed e-journals and authors' personal websites
- Open access sources of e-journal articles are convenient to access than full-text databases of e-journals articles