

# **ACCESS AND EFFECTIVE USE OF J-GATE E-JOURNALS BY SCIENCE RESEARCH SCHOLARS: A CASE STUDY AT KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to find out the awareness and use of J-Gate e-journal gateway by science research scholars at Kuvempu University. A questionnaire was used as a data collection instrument which was distributed to 170 research scholars. A total 129 questionnaires were received back which is the 75.88% of the sample. The findings revealed that 100% of the research scholars were aware and found using the J-Gate e-journals gateway. Research is the main purpose of using e-journals. Most of the research scholars found restricted access to some journals, difficulty in accessing full text and interested journals are not available through J-gate. Overall, the satisfaction level of the researchers with regard to J-gate e-journals services is good.

**KEYWORDS:** E-journals, J-Gate, Journal Gateway, University Libraries, Kuvempu University.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Since the seventieth century the printed journal has been the backbone of scholarly communication. Nevertheless, with the emergence of Internet and World Wide Web in the 1990s, the form of journals has been transformed into digital version that saves physical storage, enhance different searching capabilities and speed both access and delivery of articles to readers. This event marked the paradigm shift in scholarly communication, from printed journals as the principle medium of communication to electronic journals. As a result of potential benefits offered by electronic journals, many academic libraries have embraced electronic journals and cancelled subscription to printed journals (Moyo, 2002; Mutula, 2007 and Thanuskodi, 2011).

Nevertheless, enormous progress has been done in the last few years to ensure that scholars and professionals can access the growing quantities of information now produced in electronic format. Support has been provided in setting up the necessary network infrastructure and providing the requisite hardware and software. E-Journals have emerged as a powerful media of communication and are considered vital source for supporting education and research programmes in the universities. But due to budget cuts rise in cost of publication and devaluation of rupee the university libraries are not in a position to procure all the core journals which are in a demand by the users. Realizing the need for scholarly electronic journals in education and research UGC starts providing

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access to E-Journals to university libraries. Apart from this, J-Gate is acting as an electronic gateway to global e-journal literature. (Msagati, 2014). In this present study an attempt has been made to find the use of J-Gate e-journals by the science research scholars at Kuvempu University.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

With the advent of e-journals, many surveys have been administered to discover users' behaviors and preferences. Voorbij and Ongering's (2006) study gives an overview of user studies performed in the past few years and describes the results of a user survey carried out among faculty in the Netherlands to examine their experience with e-journals. Borrego et al. (2007) report the results of a survey on the use of print and e-journals by the academic staff of the universities belonging to the Consortium of Academic Libraries of Catalonia (CBUC). The major results can be summarized as: more than percent 95 of the respondents are aware of the e-journals; electronic journals are used exclusively or predominantly by 52 percent of the respondents; use of the e-journal collection shows a statistically significant relationship with the discipline, the age of the respondents and their academic status. Madhusudhan (2008) has focused on the use of UGC-Infonet e-journals by research scholars and students. The study shows that e-journals perform an increasingly important role in research at DLIS. Moghaddam and Talawar (2008) investigated the use of scholarly e-journals at the Indian Institute of Science. The results of the survey reflect a growing interest in electronic journals among users at the IISc. The results showed a growing interest in electronic journals among the users at IISc. E-Journals awareness and use among research scholars of Central Science Library; University of Delhi has been accessed by Ali and Nisha (2011). Findings of the study clearly reveal that more than 60 per cent of users in the Central Science Library are using e-journals weekly for the purpose of research. Print

journals are consulted by the majority of users compared with e-journals. Vasishta (2013) noted that promotion is the decisive factor in the effective use of sophisticated services such as electronic journals. He argued that, since electronic journal are developing as a new information platform, their promotion requires more than just notification.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

- To know the awareness and use of J-Gate e-journals among science research scholars
- To study the purpose of using J-Gate e-journals
- The study the problem faced by the research scholars in accessing e-journals through J-Gate
- The study the level of satisfaction about the J-Gate e-journals
- To suggest ways and means for the effective use of J-Gate e-journals

## METHODOLOGY

In the absence of proper methodology, research cannot be carried out systematically; methodology plays an important role in the scientific investigation of any research. Scientific investigation involves careful and proper adoption of research design, use of standardized tools and texts in identifying adequate sample techniques for analyzing the data. For this present study a well-structured questionnaire has been designed for the survey to elicit the opinion of the research scholars regarding the use of J-gate e-journals. The questionnaire has been personally distributed among research scholars of science departments at Kuvempu University. Total 170 questionnaires were distributed to the science research scholars. Out of which, 129 questionnaires were received back which is the 75.88% of the sample. The data collected through the questionnaire has been scrutinized, classified,

tabulated, and presented with the help of SPSS software.

### ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The study intends to know the attitudes and perception of research scholars towards the

features, services and Impact of J-Gate e-journals on research. In this section the results and analysis of the collected data has been presented. The following table gives detailed information about the distribution of questionnaires to the research scholars under study.

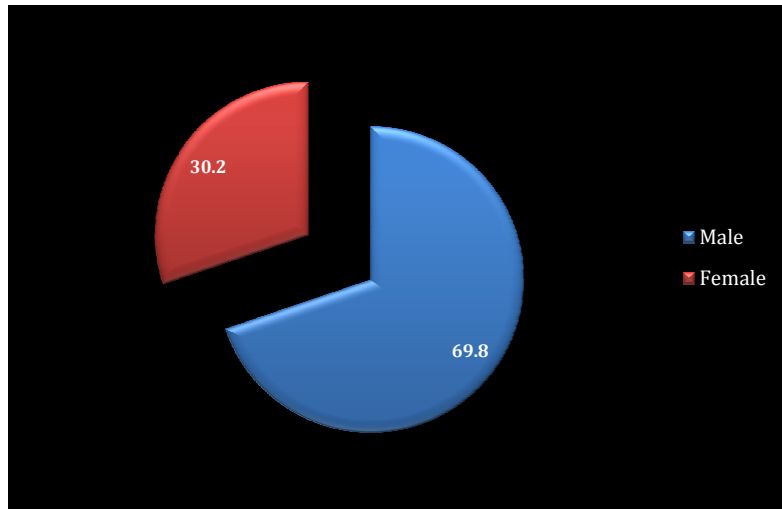


Figure 1. Distribution of Respondents by Gender wise

The data given in figure 1 presents the Gender-Wise distribution of the respondents. It is found

that a majority 90(69.8%) of the respondents belongs to male, followed by female, 39(30.2%).

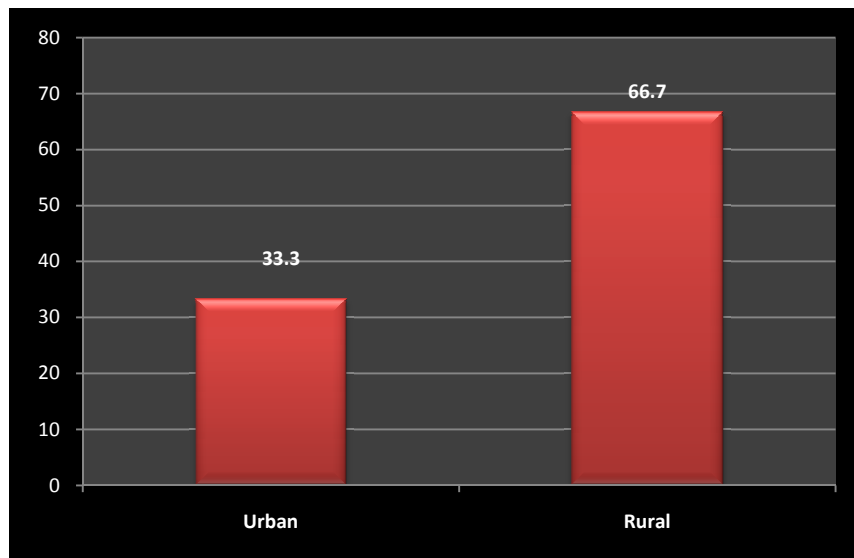


Figure 2. Social background of Respondents

The above figure revealed that the majority 86(66.7%) of the respondents belongs to the rural background whereas 43(33.3%) belongs to urban

area. It is evident that most of the respondents belong to the rural area, because, the researcher found that the university is located in rural area.

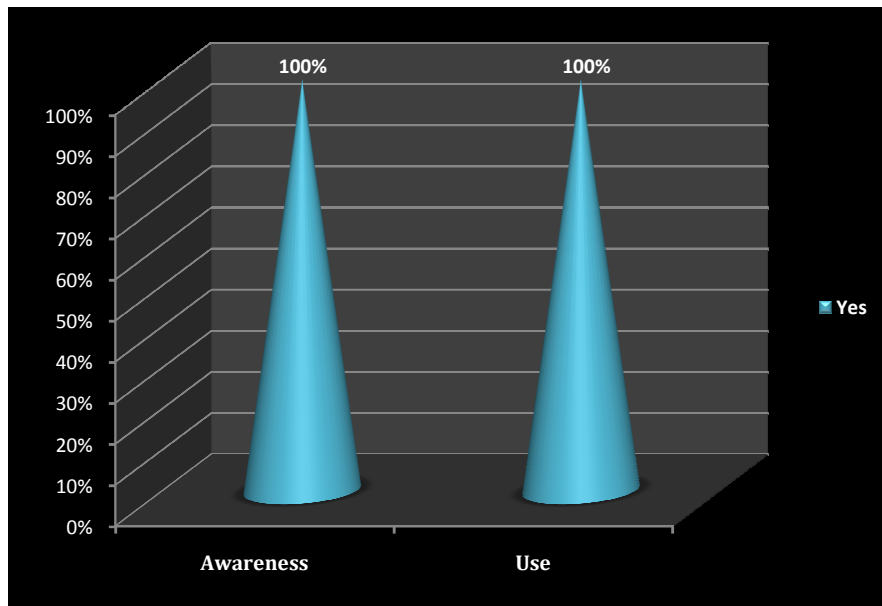


Figure 3. Awareness and Use of J-Gate E-journals Gateway

It is found from the above table that all 129 surveyed respondents are found aware and using J-Gate e-journals. It shows the 100% awareness

and use of the J-Gate e-journals by the respondents.

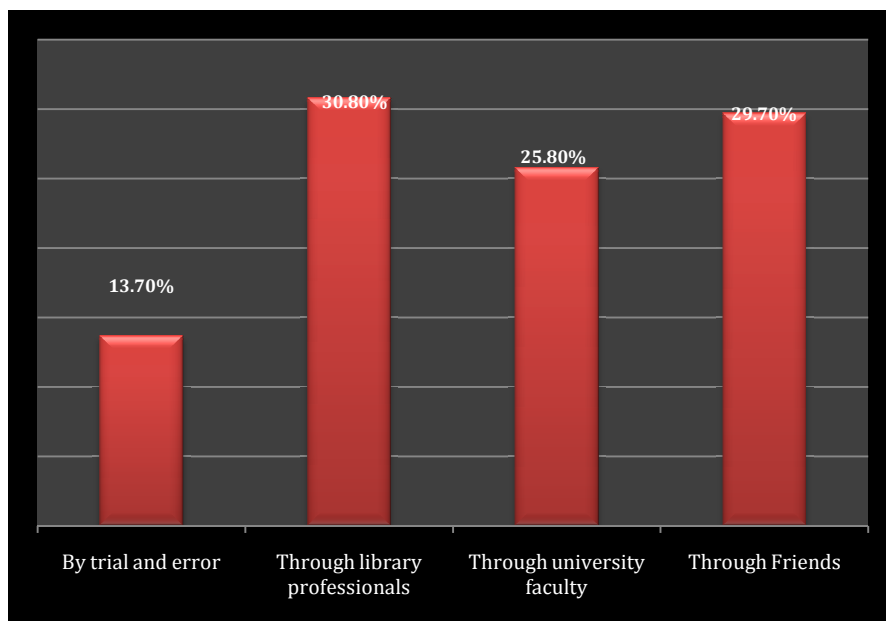
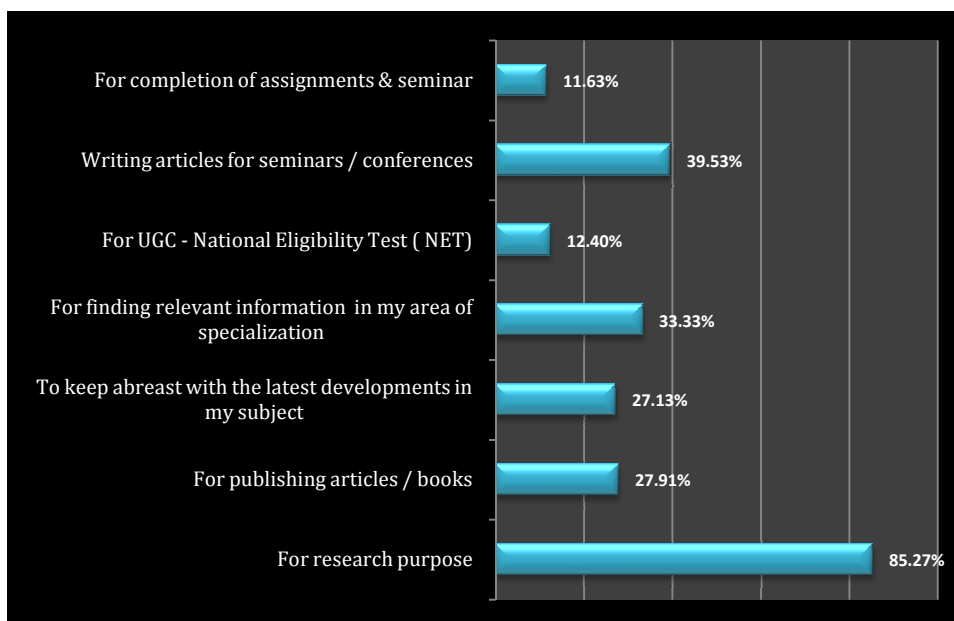


Figure 4. Sources Frequencies

Figure-4 shows the sources used to learn the access and use of J-gate. It is observed that most of the respondents (30.80%) acquire knowledge about J-gate usage through library professionals

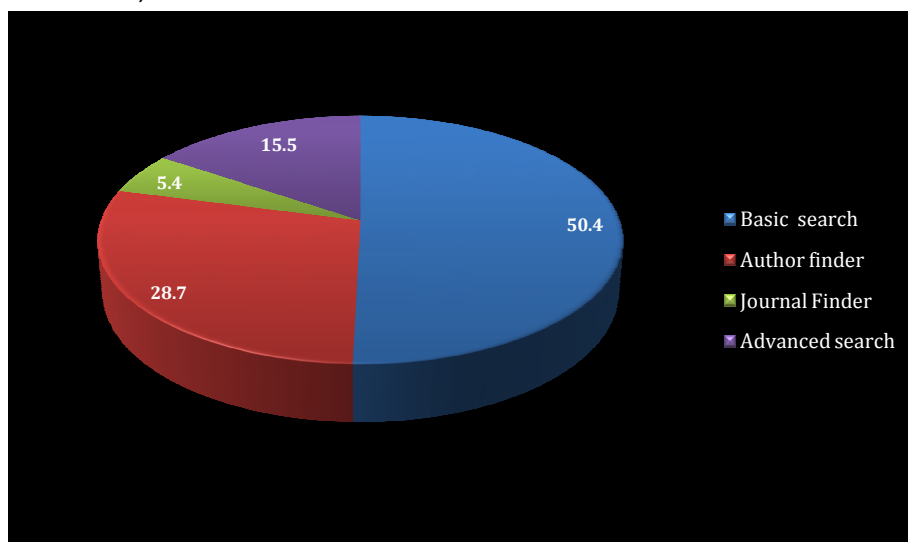
followed by 29.70% of them learnt J-gate usage through their friends, 25.80% of them learnt through university faculty and remaining 13.7% of them learnt by trial and error method.



**Figure 5.Purpose of Using J-Gate E-Journals**

The study tried to find out the various purposes for which e-journals are used by the science research scholars. It is evident from the above figure that majority of the respondents 85.27% made use of J-Gate e-journals for research purpose followed by 39.53% of them used for writing articles for seminars/conferences, 33.33% of them for finding relevant information in their area of specialization, 27.91% of them for

publishing articles / books, 27.13% to keep abreast with the latest developments in my subject, 12.40% of them for preparing UGC NET and 12.40% of them for completion of assignments & seminar. Looking at the response from the respondents one can observe that J-gate e-journals are used for research purpose by the more than three quarters of respondents.



**Figure 6.Search Techniques used at J- Gate**

Figure-6 depicts that half of the respondents i.e. 50.4% used basic search approach followed by 28.7% used the author finder, 15.5% used journal finder and 5.4% of them used advanced search. It

is clear from the analysis that the basic search approach is more popular among research scholars.

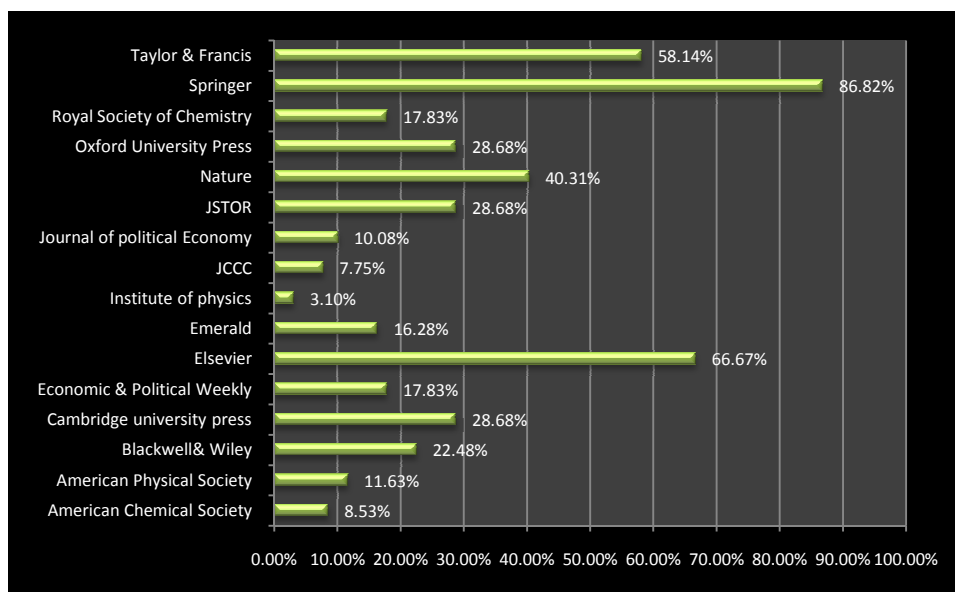


Figure 7. Publisher wise Journal Preference

After accessing and using the J-Gate e-journals by the research scholars, they were asked to indicate their most used publisher's journal. Figure-7 shows the list of journal publishers preferred by the respondents. It is noted that maximum number of the respondents i.e.86.82% used Springer followed by 66.67% of them used Elsevier, 58.14% of them used Taylor & Francis, 40.31% of them used Nature, 28.68% each of them used Cambridge University Press, Oxford

University Press and JSTOR and 22.28 % of respondents used Blackwell& Wiley. Less than 20% of them preferred Economic & Political Weekly, and Journal of political Economy, JCCC, Emerald, American Physical Society, American Chemical Society, Royal Society of Chemistry, and Institute of Physics. Looking at the response from the respondents one can be observe that Springer is the most reputed journal publisher followed by Elsevier.

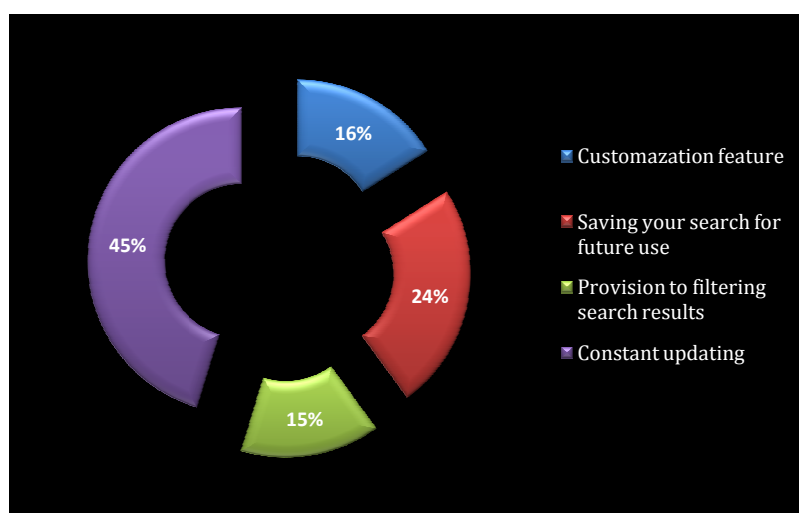


Figure 8.J-Gate Features

The present study is identified the features available at J-gate e-journal gateway. It is found that most of the respondents 45% liked constant updating feature followed by 24.0% were about

saving your search for future use, 16.0% of them liked customization feature and 14.7% of them liked provision to filtering search results.

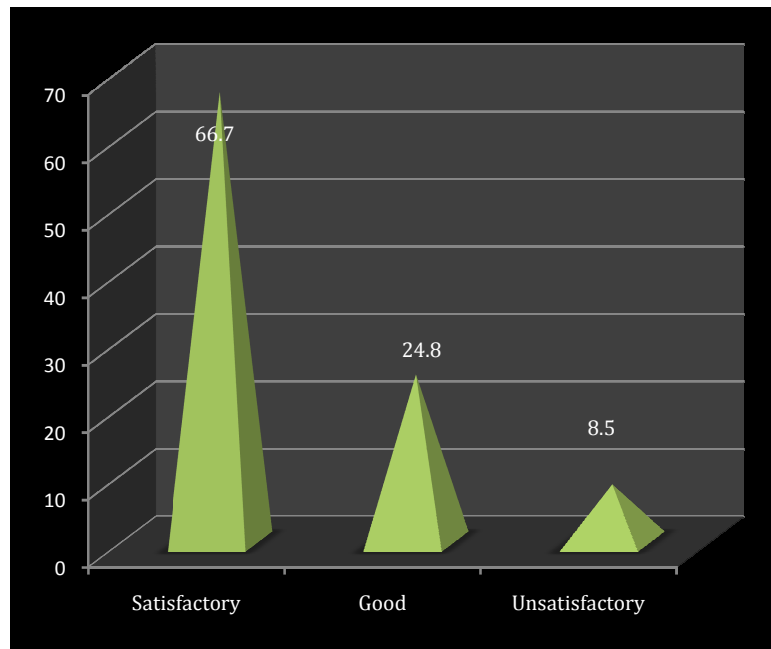


Figure 9.Opinion about the J - Gate Service at Library

From the above figure it is clear that most of the respondents (66.7%) are satisfied about the J - Gate service provided through their library followed by 24.8% of them are at good and

remaining 8.5% of them are unsatisfied about the J - Gate service provided through their library. It can be said that library is providing good service to the research scholars.

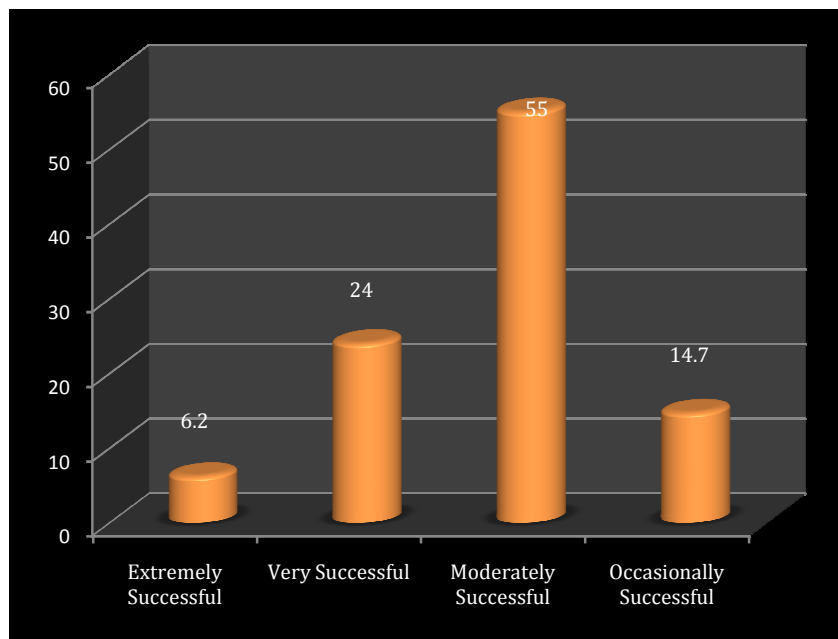


Figure 10.Respondents' Success Rate in using J-Gate

The study identified the success rate of the respondents in using J-Gate. It is observed from the above figure that more than half of the respondents (55%) are moderately successful in

using J-Gate followed by 24% of them are very successful, 14.7% of them are occasionally successful and only few percent of respondents (6.2%) are extremely successful in using J-Gate.

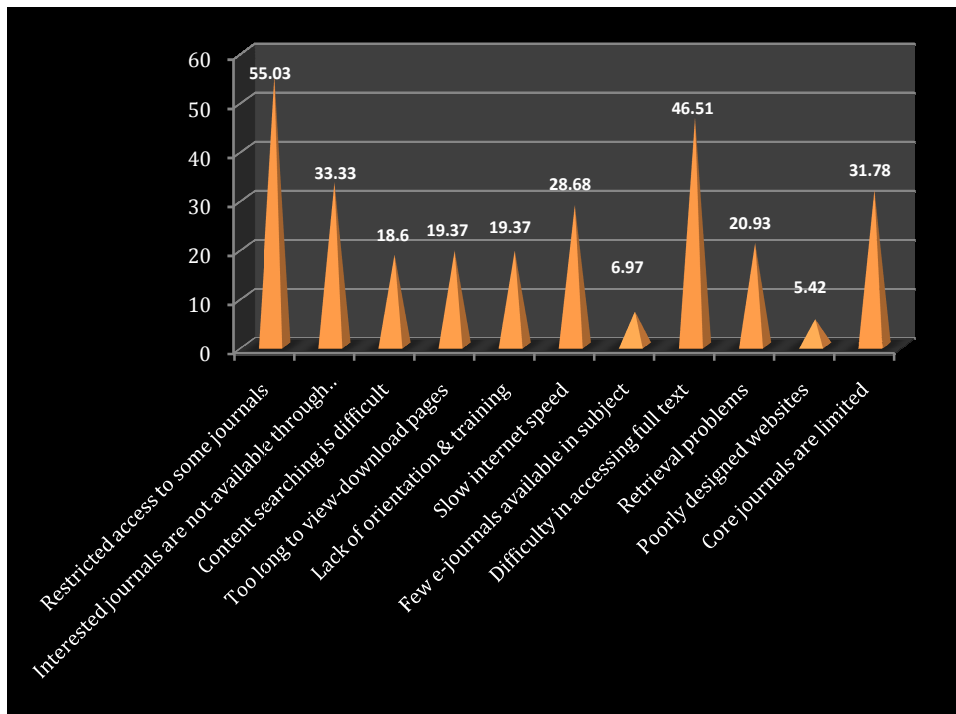


Figure 11. Problems encountered while using J-Gate

One of the main objectives of the present study is to find out the problems faced by the research scholars while using J-Gate. The above figure explains that the majority of the respondents are facing many problems while accessing the e-journals through J-Gate which are distributed in the form of questions. The table reveals that, out of 129 respondents, 55.03% of respondents found restricted access to some journals followed by 46.51% of them found difficulty in accessing full text, 33.33% of them opined that interested

journals are not available through J-gate, 31.79% of them felt that core journals are limited, 28.68% of the respondents expressed their views on slow Internet speed, 20.93% of them faced retrieval problems. Further less than 20% of the respondents found too long to view-download pages (19.37%), lack of orientation & training (19.37%), content searching is difficult (18.60%), few e-journals available in subject (6.97%) and Poorly designed websites (5.42%).

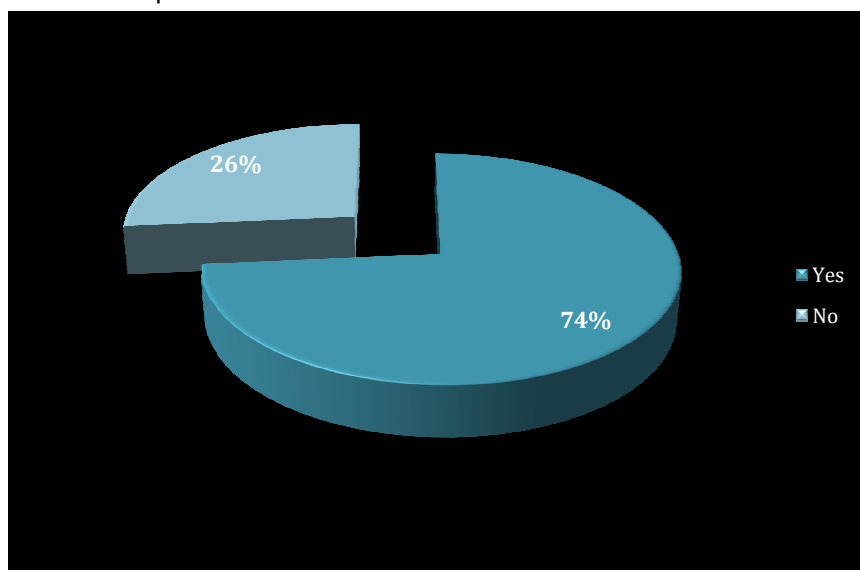


Figure 12. Need for User orientation/Training Programme



Research Scholars were asked if any training programme or orientation is needed to know and search the J-Gate e-journals. It is observed from the above figure that 73.6% of Research Scholars responded that there is need for training or orientation programme to know searching of the J-Gate journals and 26.4% of the Research Scholars responded that such programmes are not needed.

## **FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

The following major findings were found from the present study:

- It is interesting note that all 129 surveyed respondents were found aware and using J-Gate e-journals.
- More than one quarter (30.80%) of respondents acquire knowledge about J-gate usage through library professionals.
- It is evident from the analysis that majority of the respondents (85.27%) made use of J-Gate e-journals for research purpose.
- Basic search approach at J-Gate is most used approach by the half of the respondents (50.4%) whereas 5.4% of them used advanced search.
- In publisher wise journal preference Springer got good response by the majority of the respondents (86.82%) followed by Elsevier (66.66%) and Taylor & Francis (58.13%).
- Constant updating feature at J-gate is most liked feature by the 45% of the respondents.
- A majority (66.7%) of the respondents are satisfied about the J - Gate service provided through their library.
- When asking about success rate about J-Gate use, more than half of the respondents (55%) are moderately successful in using J-Gate.
- Out of 129 respondents, 55.03% of respondents found restricted access to some journals followed by 46.51% of them found

difficulty in accessing full text and 33.33% of them opined that interested journals are not available through J-gate.

- It is evident that 73.6% of research scholars responded to the need for training or orientation programme for improving the search, access, and usage skills of J-gate e-journals.

## **CONCLUSION**

The present study examined the usage of J-Gate e-journals gateway by research scholars of Kuvempu University. Most of the objectives of the study were accomplished. The survey revealed that 100% of the research scholars were aware of e-journals. From this survey, the investigator has been able to find out that a good number of research scholars are accessing e-journals from their department computer laboratories not only for research purposes but also for study, writing manuscripts and papers, career development, and to update their knowledge.

It is very interesting to conclude that 100% of the researchers under survey use the J-Gate e-journals. By and large, the researchers evince a good deal of interest in frequent use of e-journals. Most of the research scholars found restricted access to some journals, difficulty in accessing full text and interested journals are not available through J-gate.

Overall, the satisfaction level of the researchers with regard to J-gate e-journals services is good. But majority of the Faculty and libraries should organize regular workshops to enhance usage of e-journals. But, majority of the research scholars responded to the need for training for improving the search, access, and usage skills of J-gate e-journals. For this libraries should organize regular workshops/user training to enhance the proper usage of e-journals.

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