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Acceptance among BS Chemistry Students of E-journal at Batangas State University Main Library

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Abstract

The BatStateU Electronic Library was first introduced in 2006 and became fully operational in 2007, as part of the rehabilitation of the library. Housing several computer units, the library offers free user access to the internet for their academic and research needs. Through internet access, students are provided with a faster and easier way of securing the very much needed information for their research and study work. Like many other academic libraries, the BatStateU Main Library has initiated an electronic journal access for its users. This study was done to determine the acceptability of the available electronic journal in the Main Library among the BS Chemistry 3rd year students. The preparation of the questionnaire and the gathering of data were done by the researchers. A set of questionnaires was administered to the twenty (20) 3rd year students of BS Chemistry program. 70% of the respondents said that they were good in searching and/or retrieving information from the internet. Most of the respondents have accessed in the internet using their mobile phones. Most of them used the internet service of the Main Library through wifi or the desktop housed in the library. They evaluated their internet experience inside the campus as good (55%) in terms of speed. All of the respondents were able to use the electronic journal available in the Main Library. Three (3) of the respondents accessed the electronic journal in weekly basis. During their use of the electronic journal available in the library, they rarely encountered problems in viewing, searching and downloading articles related to their course. They appreciate the electronic journal more than the printed journal because of the vivid images. Most of the respondents (80%) support the library in purchasing access to electronic journal/s related to their program.

Keywords: Electronic Journal; Internet Access; Library Services.

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1. Introduction

The Batangas State University (BatStateU) Library participates in the research and education programs of the University by selecting, collecting, organizing, preserving and conserving books and other materials for the intellectual stimulation of its students, faculty and administrative staff [1]. The Electronic Library was first introduced in 2006 and became fully operational in 2007, as part of the rehabilitation of the library. Housing several computer units, the library offers free user access to the internet for their academic and research needs. Through internet access, students are provided with a faster and easier way of securing the very much needed information for their research and study work. Like many other academic libraries, the BatStateU Main Library has initiated an electronic journal access for its users. Publication by electronic means started 1990s and now exploring its application and implications for teaching and research. An electronic journal encompasses the dissemination and archiving of full-text professional articles using digital media [2]. There have been considerable investment by academic and research libraries aiming for online resources, there are however, still issues outstanding in respect of the usability of these systems [3]. Another issue is most of the students prefer to use other internet resources such as search engines rather than their institutions' available e-journals. Therefore researchers are eager to assess user acceptance with library services particularly on electronic journals. Several authors have conducted studies in electronic journals usage and perceptions. Schloman profiled the perceptions and use of both print and electronic journals among nursing faculty and found that roughly 75% of respondents used print journals frequently, but only about 25% used electronic journals to the same extent [4]. Comparing the use of an identical set of print and electronic journals, Morse and Clintworth noted that while print uses for the journals investigated over the six-month study period in an academic health sciences library were 1,800, electronic uses were approximately 28,000 [5]. Rusch-Feja and Siebeky surveyed researchers at the Max Planck Institute and revealed a high acceptance of electronic journals and a reluctance to return to print journals only [6]. Tomney and Burton, surveyed faculty from two British universities in late 1996 and early 1997, sampling five departments from each university. They found that 28% of their respondents had used e-journals, with adoption rates of 30-36% in sci-tech departments. Participants in the study were asked about perceived advantages of e-journals. Some of the characteristics which received top ratings included, among others, accessibility (86%), reading from desktop (67%), and links (33%). Respondents also indicated many disadvantages including graphics (22%) and archiving (4%), among other things [7]. Most of the researchers have also examined the potential effect using electronic journals on research and communication. In view of this, the researchers aimed to determine the acceptance of BS Chemistry students towards the use of electronic journals available in the BatStateU Main Campus I Library. Specifically, they aimed to determine the following: respondents have adequate equipment, computer skills, and internet skills to utilize e-journals; what respondents consider the best mechanism to access e-journals; and respondents find e-journals to be equivalent or superior to print journals.

2. Material and Methods

This present study used as respondents the third year BS Chemistry students of Batangas State University enrolled in Research 101. The researchers used the descriptive research methods in order to assess the acceptability of the IEEE journals. The preparation of the questionnaire and the gathering of data were done by

the researchers. A set of questionnaires was administered to the respondents and the data gathered were tabulated and analyzed using weighted mean.

3. Results

All of the students have access to electronic device and most of them owns mobile phone.

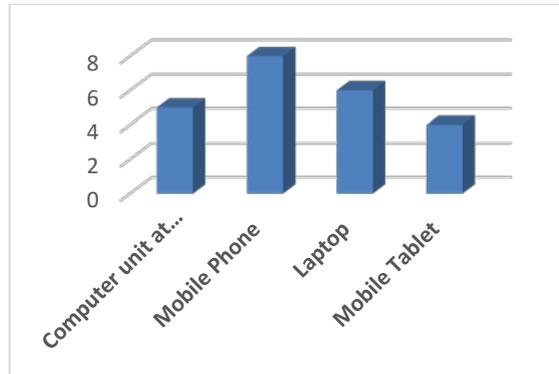


Figure 1: Access to the electronic device

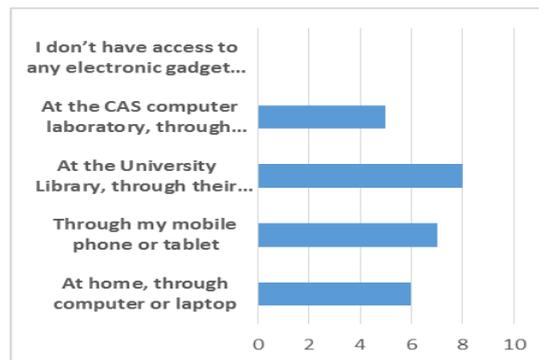


Figure 2: Students' Internet Access

Based on Fig. 2, all of the students have access to internet. The University fully utilizes the students' access to their own mobile devices by making the whole University a Wi-Fi campus. Through this initiative, students can freely browse and search e-journals using the University's wireless internet services.

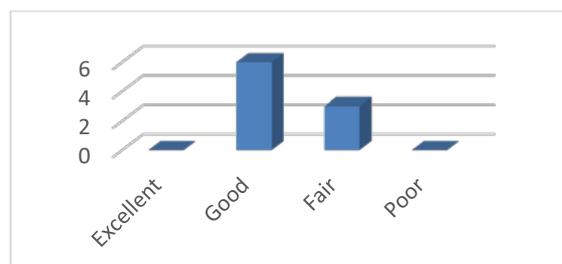


Figure 3: Students' description of their computer skills

Based on Fig. 3, most of the BS Chemistry 3rd year students describe their computer skills as good. Since the respondents already passed their computer class during their first year in the program, the use of internet for searching and retrieving data is easier for them.



Figure 4: Students' description of their internet access/experience inside the University

Most of them describe their internet access/experience inside the University as good. During an interview on the respondents, they expressed that they were satisfied in the internet connection speed inside the University. They only encounter occasional lags or internet connectivity disruptions when they perform web searches or download media or documents online.

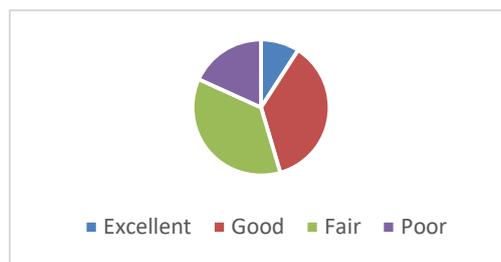


Figure 5: Students' description of their skills in searching/retrieving information from the internet

Only few students considered themselves to have excellent skills in retrieving/searching information from the internet while most of them considered themselves good. Since a large percentage of the respondents are knowledgeable in performing internet searches through various search engines, they are more at ease when searching for reference materials, such as e-books and journal articles, for their school or theses works.

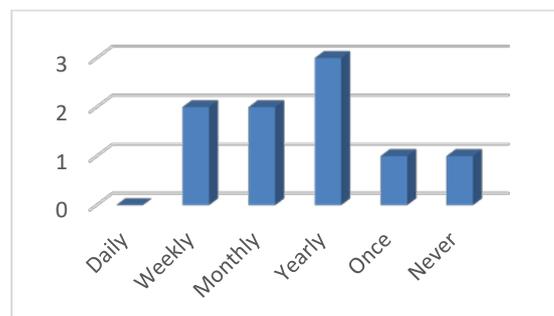


Figure 6: Frequency on Students' access in the electronic journals available in the library

Based on Fig.6, there is no student who access the e-journal in the library in a daily basis although most of them access the e-journal in a weekly and monthly basis. The result is similar to the study of Cochenour and Moothart, that most of their respondents used e-journals at least monthly [8].

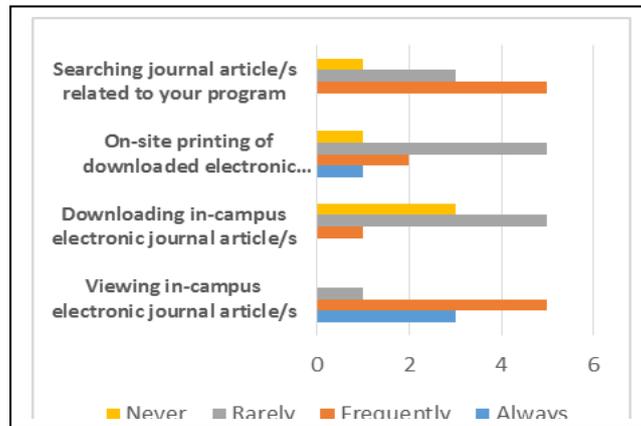


Figure 7: Frequency on the number of times students’ encountered problems in using e-journals available in the library

Most of the students frequently encountered problems in viewing and searching in-campus e-journals. They rarely encountered problems in downloading and on-site printing of the downloaded articles. The University offers a strong Wi-Fi connection for the students to enjoy. The library offers on-site printing at a very minimal cost. Based on Fig. 8, the respondents considered the e-journals to have a better quality of images compared to the printed materials. They appreciated the high definition images on e-journals, which could be enlarged without sacrificing quality.

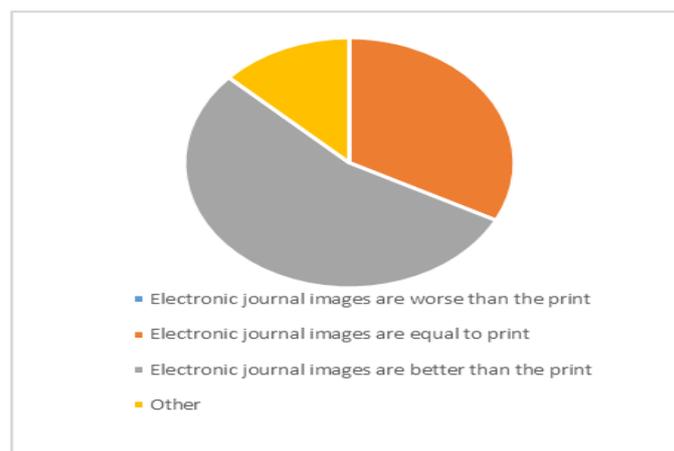


Figure 8: Students’ Perception in the quality of images in e-journals compared to the printed materials

Based on Fig. 9, students knew the importance of having e-journals in the library. No students considered the e-journals not important at all. The ease of accessing e-journals through mobile devices than printed journals makes e-journals more appealing to the respondents.

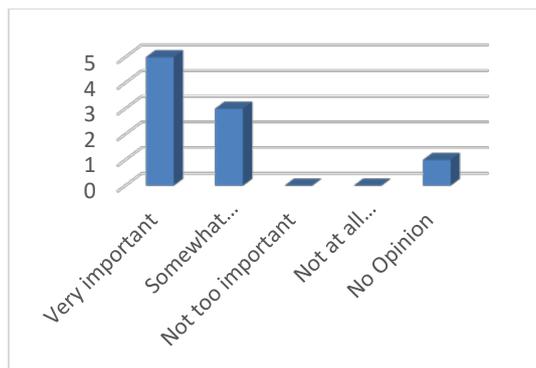


Figure 9: Students' perception on the importance of having e-journals in the library

Most of the BS Chemistry students support purchasing access to e-journals related to their program. According to the students, it will be a big help to their research if there is an accessible scientific journals in the library, this observation is similar to the Colorado State University. Most of the Colorado State University faculty, graduate students and administrative professionals supported adding electronic access to print journal subscriptions [6]. Based on the study of the Rsch-Feja, D. and Siebeky, U., the major motivation for choosing electronic version of journal is based on the ease of access round the clock [5].

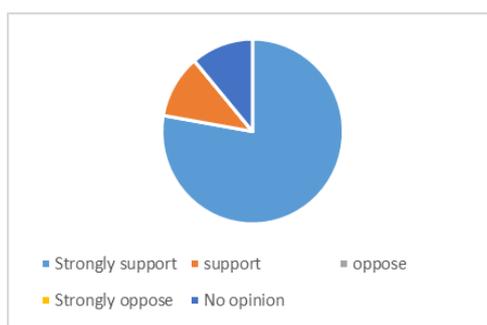


Figure 10: Students' perception in purchasing access to e-journals related to their program

4. Conclusion

The BS Chemistry 3rd year students have a good computer skills especially in retrieving/searching information in the internet. Most of them owns mobile device and have access in the internet at home and within the University. Their experience in internet access inside the University is good. Most of them access the available e-journal in the library in a weekly and monthly basis and frequently encountered problems in viewing and searching in-campus e-journals. They rarely encountered problems in downloading and on-site printing of the downloaded articles. Students considered the e-journals to have a better quality of images compared to the printed materials. The BS Chemistry students support purchasing access to e-journals related to their program.

5. Recommendations

Based on the conclusions, the following recommendations were drawn:

- There is a need to determine the effect of journal format on research process
- Determine the best e-journals that the University will purchase its access
- Compare the printed journals and e-journals as basis for purchase.

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