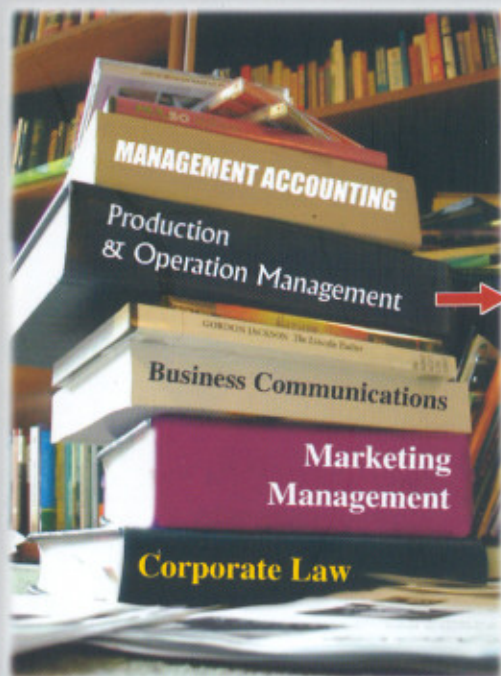# EMPI Digital Library National Convention – 2007

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Roadmap for Modernization of Libraries and Information Centres in the Emerging Knowledge Era

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Contents

Free Online Journals in the Field of Social Sciences: An Analytical Study

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Abstract: Defines free online journals. Lists judiciously selected Open access Journals in the field of social sciences available on WWW. The paper covers the almost all subjects coming under social sciences. The methodology adopted to find out information from the internet is described. The criteria for evaluation of free online journals discussed. The list of open access journals with their websites and bibliographic details is provided which may be useful to the scholars, students, learners, institutions, organizations.

1. Introduction

Since past few years free online digital information sources like e- journals, e- books, e-databases have increased considerably. The traditional library systems are transforming itself into hybrid information systems having a mix of digital and traditional paper resources. In the present scenario because of high tech development in science and technology and information technology the form of sources and services is witnessing a drastic change. Digital library and services through electronic media are the prestigious issues of modern library concept. The user community has become more familiar with the medium over time and has started to actively bid for alternative forms of access. Technology improvement in the communication network paired with the decreasing cost of hardware, create greater incentives for innovation.

Internet information resources can be defined as resources in digital format that provide information or indicator to the information and are accessible over the internet. Online availability of information enables the user to get relevant information and acquaint with latest development taking place in the respected field.

In Indian university libraries, information centers are also preparing databases of books, journals, theses etc. Online subscription to journals is becoming very popular now- a-days. On the internet several journals are freely available. In online subscription we get access to the current issue of journals along with some back volumes form part of Social Science are not listed here. A variety of different kinds of resources are available in all these subjects' areas on the internet.

Year	Database
1965	20
1975	300
1984	2453
2001	Thousands of Databases

However depth and quantum may vary from area to area.

1.1. Objective

The Objective is to provide a list of free-online journals of social sciences. It provides the users to access the latest researches in their respective field, and enables them to the latest developments and get relevant information. The free on-line journal list will also help in updating individual knowledge of the users so that they can fulfill the demand of their profession.

1.2. Methodology

Various search engines have been used for searching the free on-line journals in the field of social sciences. There are various types of search engines such as (1) General search engines like; Google.com, Excite, NothernLight.com, Altavista.com, Lycos, ask.com, times.com, deja.com, Egroups.com etc. (2) Meta search engines like; Altaseek.com, C4.com, Metracrawler.com, Genieknows.com etc. (3) Subject specific search engines like; SOSIG , vlib.org etc. After finding out the titles of Journals these were verified from the actual sites and their details like publishers, editors, periodicity, coverage and medium of availability (print/online/CD-ROM) have been ascertained.

1.3. Criteria to evaluate the web documents/ journals

The Internet hosts a lot of information resources but all sources available on the internet are not equally valuable or reliable. A search executed on an search engine such as Goggle or Alta vista on any topic brings out thousands of links to information resources, most of which are often found irrelevant or found to have ceased to exist.

So, it is highly recommended that page must be evaluated. Some of the criteria employed for evaluating printed information resources are also used for evaluating the internet resources. Commonly these points are known as ASTAFS.

1.3.1 Authority

First of all the author and publisher of the web documents should be identified. It is very difficult to find the author and publisher of a website on internet but we can easily find out the organization, which has hosted the site and is responsible for content generation.

1.3.2. Scope

After identifying the authority the subject covered by the website must be checked. Which authors have contributed to the website in case there are many contributors? What is the recent level of the website. Whether they links to other sites are given; if so whether they are working or not.

1.3.3. Treatment

Here we have to check whether, information given is recent or out dated.

1.3.4. Arrangement

The most common feature to be checked is the style of rendering information and the style must be easily expressive?

1.3.5. Format

We have to check that in which form the document is. Here format means basically audio, video, text and image format.

1.3.6. Special feature

After checking the above all points finally we have to see is there any specific feature associated with the document. Indexing has been done, download given etc.

Out of the above criteria of evaluation there are several alternatives also available to evaluate the online resources. These can broadly be divided into the following four categories:

- *Initial appraisal:*
  Initial appraisal of an Internet resource may be made based on the following criteria

  Author: Author's credentials, i.e. institutional affiliation, educational background, other scholarly works, experience, etc.

  Date of publication: Date of publication or date of last revision is an indication of currency

  Edition or Revision: revision or updation reflects changes in the subject contents

  Publisher: Publication from a university press or scholarly society is likely to be treated of high scholarly value.

  Title of journal: Is the journal popular or scholarly.

- *Suitability of resource:*
  Scanning the contents and indices to determine the resource on the following criteria:-

  Scope and coverage: Since most of the internet resources do not have a formal introduction or preface, determining the scope and intended audience can be a daunting task. The time period covered in an information resource is also an indication of coverage.

  Factual Vs Opinion: The information contents should be factual it should not be propaganda, advertisement or opinion.

  Primary Vs Secondary: Access whether the information is primary or secondary in nature. Books, articles in encyclopedia, etc. are secondary sources while research articles in journals and conference proceedings are primary sources of information.

  Audience: An information resource on Internet should clearly define its potential audience.

- *Content analysis:*
  It covers the following aspects:

  Accuracy: The contents of a resource should be reliable and error – free.

  Authority: The reputation of an author as an accomplished authority in his field of study is an important criterion of evaluation. An author's affiliation to an organization of repute is also an indication to his/her authority.

  Objective: Information contents of a resource should be factual, unbiased and written most objectively.

  Currency: The date of last update given on the site indicates currency of a resource.

  Completeness: The information contents of a website should be complete and comprehensive.

- *Structure and Presentation:*
  It covers the following aspects:-

  Writing Style: In general, the text should be easy to read and should follow the basic rules of grammar, spelling and literacy compositions.

  Structure: The information resource should be organized logically with major points or headings clearly presented. The resource should follow the basic principles of graphic design, wherever applicable.

  Design and Layout: Layout and design of a website should communicate a sense of location to the user, based on apparent patterns and consistent use of visual element such as headings.

Easy to Use: The information source should be easy-to-use even for a novice use

Accessibility and Reliability: The information should be easily accessible and qu to load.

2. Process Logic

The different search engines produced different results. The use of logic and actual verification of t sites and their contents is required in every case. The process of evaluation of Internet resour consists of the following steps.

2.1 Identification of Links to Resources

Identification of information resources was done using mailing lists, distribution lists, other meta resour internet resources newsletter, internet search engines, specialty search engines, directories of inter resources, etc.

2.2 Follow a Link to Find Out More about the Resources

Following a link to the document where the link is originally referred can provide details about t intended scope and audience and whether the information is likely to be updated and how often.

2.3 Analyses the URL

The URL (Uniform Resource Locator) provides useful information for evaluation of an internet resour

3. Limitation

The uses of search terms and various indexing techniques by the different search engines. Th comprehensive list of all free online journals could not be extensively prepared because if it is prepar extensively, the project will be much lengthy and need much more time.

4. Suggestions and Conclusion

Out of several searched e-journals it is found that many journals available in full text form, free of cos The facility has been provided by the publishers to subscribe these journals in their e-mails and can hav regular receiving without missing of issues, because these are programmed and customized accordin the automatic online subscription, so that a user may enjoy reading and update their knowledge base.

The following problems and difficulties were encountered and accordingly suggestions and observatio are as under

- By using the leading search engines, the result for the request comes in bulk and it is n easy to find the appropriate title of journal, title of article, name of author, name publisher, place etc.

- There is no specific gateway for finding the social science journals except www.sosig.ac.uk.
- The subject and titles are found scattered on the internet.
- There are no standards for presenting the bibliographical details of the journals on the internet. In some journals editors, sub-editors, frequency, place etc. are not found.
- Many e- journals were detected available full text in first round of search, but a few journals found missing in the second round of search, so that it very difficult to rely on the sites.
- It has been observed that information should be organized on the internet in a better way, so that accurate piece of information can be found timely. The search engines should eliminate the bulk list of search by using the latest IT search techniques.
- A common gateway for e-journals is required to access or search journals by subject, country, title of journal, title of article, name of author, name of publisher etc. like http://www.openj-gate.com
- The publishers or the editors of the sites should provide complete bibliographical details on the site, and presentation of bibliographical details, a standard catalogue format should be followed.
- The journals once published on the internet should be archived by some permanent repository, so that these can be accessed even after the original sites of the journals expires or stop their services.
- The listed journals are regular in their periodicity and their articles are properly edited and published by the concerned authority with regular editors and publishers. While going through the text of these journals articles, it is noticed that highly useful information is available in these journal articles which is very highly useful for the social science professional in providing/delivering the latest researches and developments taking place in the field of social science. So this highly useful information can be utilize to the students, teachers, researchers, scholars, philosophers and all other user community for fulfill their information needs to their concerned knowledge areas.

Free online journals in the field of social sciences: an analytical study.

Sr. No.	Title	URL	Publisher	Place of Publication.	Language	Starting from
1	Europa	http://www.intellectbooks.com/europa/index.htm	Department of French, University of Exeter, Queen's Building, The Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QH, London, UK; Tel: 01392 264221; Fax: 01392 264377; email: K.C.Cameron@exeter.ac.uk	London	English	1996 – ------------ zFreq:- Half yearly.

2	Reviewing Sociology: A Review Journal. Reviewing Sociology: A Review Journal.	http://www.rdg.ac.uk/RevSoc/home.htm	School of Sociology, University of Central England with Department of Sociology, University of Reading.	London	English	Electronically from: 1996- Freq- Tri-yearly	
3	. J-SPOT: Journal of social and political thought	http://www.yorku.ca/spot	York University,	, Canada.	English	1996-	
4	AnthroGlobe	www.anthroglobe.ca	Co-operative place global online		English, Deutsch, Espagnl, Francai, Indonesian, Italiano, Portuguese, Russian.	13 September 1994—	
5	American Communication Journal	http://acjournal.org	The American Communication Association	South Carolina.	English.	1997-	
6	Australian Journal of Educational Technology - AJET	http://www.ascilite.org.au	Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE), the Australian Society for Educational Technology (ASET) and the International Society for Performance Improvement (ISPSI).	University of Wollongong Australia, New Zealand	English.	1985- Freq- Tri- yearly.	
7	Michigan journal of history - MJH	http://www.umich.edu/~historyj/index.html	Department of History, University of Michigan.	University of Michigon.	English.	fal 2001- Freq- Biannual y.	
8	Connexions	http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/connex/	Tom Dickins, School of Psychology, University of East London Keith Frankish, Department of Philosophy, The Open University.	London	English	1997- 2003 Freq- Irregular	
9	Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood	URL:http://www.wwwords.co.uk/ciec/content/maincontents.asp	SYMPOSIUM JOURNALS a division of wwwords Ltd PO Box 204, Didcot, Oxford United Kingdom OX11 9ZQ, (United Kingdom).	United Kingdm	English.	2000- Freq- Tri- yearly	
10	Culture Machine: Generating Research in Culture and Theory	http://culturemachine.tees.ac.uk	The University of Teeside in the USA.	USA.	English.	1999- Freq- Annually	
11	Sociological Research Online	http://www.socresonline.org.uk/home.html	UK Electronic Libraries programme	London	English.	1996- Freq- Quarterly	

12	The Electronic Journal of e-Government	http://www.ejeg.com/about.htm	Academic Conferences Limited	England		English	2003-Freq:-Bi-annually
13	AntePodium (AtP)	http://www.vuw.ac.nz/atp/	Victoria University of Wellington, School of Political Science and International Relations	Wellington, New Zealand.		English	1995 -Freq:-Quarterly
14	The Cato Journal: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Public Policy Analysis	http://www.cato.org/pubs/journal/index.html	Cato Institute, Washington, DC.	Washington, DC.		English	1981-Tri-yearly
15	Chimera	http://www.usaafrica.org/chimera.html	The USA/Africa Institute, Florida, USA.	Florida, USA.		English	2003-Freq:-Quarterly
16	Crossroads	http://www.webasa.org/crossroads.htm	ASERI Students Association (ASA). Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan	Milan		English	2001-Freq:-Tri-yearly
17	Harvard Human Rights Journal	http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/hrj/	Harvard Law School	Pound Hall 406, Harvard Law School, Cambride, MA 02138		English	1999- (full text) Freq:-Annual
18	M E R I A Journal (Middle East Review of International Affairs)	http://meria.idc.ac.il/	Professor Barry Rubin, Global Research International Affairs (GLORIA) Center, IDC Israel.	Israel.		English, French, Spanish, and Turkish.	1997-Freq:-Quarterly
9	Journal of Political Ecology: Case Studies in History and Society	http://dizzy.library.arizona.edu/ej/jpe/jpeweb.html	The University of Arizona • 1510 E. University Blvd. •	Tucson, AZ 85 721–0055 520.621.2101		English, French and Spanish	1994 –Freq:-Irregular
20	Journal of Security Sector Management	http://www.jofssm.org/index.cfm	Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform, University of Cranfield, Shrivenham, UK.	UK.		English	2003-Freq:-irregular
21	The Journal of Power Institutions in Post-Soviet Societies	http://www.pipss.org/	Centre d'Etudes et de Recherché sur les Sociétés et les Institutions Post-Soviétiques (CERSIPS).	Russia	French, English, Russian, German.		2004-Freq:-Semester

22	Northwestern University Journal of International Human Rights	http://www.law.nort hwestern.edu/journal s/jihr/ssion	Northwestern University School of Law,	357 East Chicago Avenue Chicago, IL 60611-3069	English	200 Freq Annua
23	ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies	http://www.acme-journal.org/contents. html	Okanagan University College, Department of Geography	Canada	English, French, Italian, German, and Spanish.	2002-Freq:-Annual and from 200 onward hal year
24	African Studies Quarterly: the online journal of African studies	http://www.africa.ufl .edu/asq/	University of Florida, Center for African Studies	427 Grinter Hall Universiy of Florida Gainesvi lle,FL2611	English	199 Freq Quarter b no. issue a irregula

25	Australian Journal of Emerging Technologies and Society	http://www.swin.edu. au/sbs/ajets/	Australian Centre for Emerging Technologies and Society	Australia	English	200 Freq Half year
26	Contemporary Issues and Ideas in Social Sciences	http://ciiss.net/html/u ser.php	Society for Research in Social Sciences	-----------------	English.	January 200 Freq Annua
27	Discrete Dynamics in Nature and Society	http://www.hindawi.c om/journals/ddns/ind ex.html	Hindawi Publishing Corporation	Israel	English	199 Annu
28	Edwardsville Journal of Sociology	http://www.siue.edu/ SOCIOLOGY/journa l/	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.	English	2001 Freq Annua
29	Electronic Journal of Contemporary Japanese Studies	http://www.japaneses tudies.org.uk/content s/intro.html	University Sheffield, School of East Asian Studies	US	English	2001-Freq Annual

1)	http://www.intellectbooks.com/europa/index.htm
2)	http://www.rdg.ac.uk/RevSoc/home.htm
3)	http://www.yorku.ca/spot
4)	www.anthroglobe.ca
5)	http://acjournal.org
6)	http://www.ascilite.org.au
7)	http://www.umich.edu/~historyj/index.html
8)	http://www.africa.ufl.edu/asq/
9)	http://www.swin.edu.au/sbs/ajets/
10)	http://ciiss.net/html/user.php
11)	http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ddns/index.html
12)	http://www.siue.edu/SOCIOLOGY/journal/
13)	http://www.japanesestudies.org.uk/contents/intro.html
14)	http://eserver.org/clogic/interests.html
15)	http://www.usaafrica.org/chimera.html
16)	http://www.pipss.org/
17)	http://www.law.northwestern.edu/journals/jihr/ssion
18)	http://www.acme-journal.org/contents.html
19)	http://www.jofssm.org/index.cfm
20)	http://dizzy.library.arizona.edu/ej/jpe/jpeweb.html
21)	http://www.webasa.org/crossroads.htm
22)	http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/hrj/
23)	http://meria.idc.ac.il/
24)	http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/connex/
25)	http://www.socresonline.org.uk/home.html
26)	http://www.cato.org/pubs/journal/index.html
27)	http://www.vuw.ac.nz/atp/
28)	http://www.ejeg.com/about.htm
29)	http://culturemachine.tees.ac.uk
30)	http://www.wwwords.co.uk/ciec/content/maincontents.asp
31)	http://vlib.org worldwide web virtual library- social sciences
32)	American Journal of Political Science www.library.iisc.ernet.in/access/wklstper/new journal.html
33)	http://www.apnet.com/journals or www.ap/about.htm academic press
34)	http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/socsci/ejournal.html-Register -of Leading Social Sciences E-journals
35)	http://www.elsevier.com/homepage/sae/econworld/menu.htm-ECONbaes Elsevier Science
36)	http://www.psycline.org/journals/psycline.html-PSYCLINE
37)	Australian Journal online(Australia)- http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/ausejour.html
38)	Information Please --www.infoplease.com
39)	International Social Science Journal