Use of UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium Resources by Thiruvalluvar University Library Users: A Case Study

G. Uvaraj  
Librarian  
Priyadharsini Engineering College  
Vaniyambadi,  
Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. Mohan Kumar L  
Assistant Librarian  
mohanrgca@gmail.com  
Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture,  
Sirkali, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract  
Abstract: UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium is an innovative project launched by UGC to provide access of full text electronic resources and bibliographic databases to the research and academic community in India. The present paper is an attempt to study the usage of e-resources available through UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium by the Thiruvalluvar University Library users. 105 questionnaires were distributed to the users and 84 questionnaires were received back for an analysis of the data. The study reveals that the majority of the respondents evaluate UGC INFONET Digital Library consortium as good.

Keywords: UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium, E-journals, E-resources

Introduction

The advancement in the information technology has changed the scenario of world. These changes have affected each and every aspect of the human society. Technology has changed the outlook of the library collection and its services. Earlier the library collections were only in the traditional bound volumes. But now the library collection has changed their format. Now libraries acquire both print as well as electronic resources to provide easy and timely access to its users Some of the consortia set up in India are UGC- INFONET Digital Library Consortium, Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium, N-LIST, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR e-journal consortium), Health Sciences Library and Information Network (HELINET), FORSA, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Library Consortium, IIM Library Consortium, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Library Consortium, Inter University Centres (IUC-DAEF Consortia) (Atomic Energy).
UGC- INFONET Digital Library Consortium

The UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium was launched in December, 2003 by Honorable Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, the former President of India. The programme is wholly funded by the UGC and executed by the INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) Centre, Ahmedabad. The Consortium provides current as well as archival access to more than 7500 + core and peer-reviewed journals and 10 bibliographic databases from 26 publishers and aggregators in different disciplines [1]. These e-resources cover almost all subject disciplines, including arts, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences, computer sciences, management, mathematics and statistics. In number of users the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium is the largest consortium in India. The UGC provides funds through INFLIBNET required for providing differential access to various e-resources subscribed by the consortium for the selected member institutions.

Thiruvalluvar University Overview

The Thiruvalluvar University was established at Vellore by Government of Tamilnadu in October 2002 under the Thiruvalluvar University Act, 2002 (Government of Tamilnadu Act 32 / 2002). The Post Graduate Extension Centre of the University of Madras, which was functioning in Vellore before 2002 formed the core of Thiruvalluvar University. The University was inaugurated on 16.10.2002 as a State University by our Honorable Chief Minister SELVI DR. J. JAYALALITHAA. The University is located in a Sprawling Campus of about 112.68 acres at the Serkkadu near Vallimalai about sixteen km away from the Vellore City on the Ranipet-Chittoor Trunk Road. The University named after the great Tamil Saint "Thiruvalluvar"is enshrined with the motto "கண்ணுடைய ரென்பவர் கற்ற ஋ர்".

In the University, every effort is harnessed to make Educational Institution as temple of learning. The aim of this University is to provide facilities for advancement in Research and dissemination of Knowledge with focus on the Economic and Social upliftment of the society.

Literature Review

Mukherjee and Prashant [2] (2010) conducted a study on the use of UGC INFONET e-journal by research scholars of the Banaras Hindu University. Study shows that e-journals are seen as
tool with positive impact. To enhance the use of e-resources more awareness programmes should be organized.

Sinha, et.al [3] (2011) conducted a study on the use of e-resources available under UGC – INFONET Digital Library consortium by Assam University library users. Study shows that e-journals and e-books are the most popular e-resources used by the users.

Sohail and Ahmad [4] (2011) conducted a study on the use of e-resources and UGC Infonet consortium by the teachers and research scholars in Aligarh Muslim University. Study reveals that there is increased acceptance of the e-journals by the university academicians and users in present environment and UGC Infonet has to play a significant role to assist academic and research community.

Londhe and Deshpande [5] (2013) Conducted a study on usage of UGC INFONET e-resources at University of Pune. Study reveals that users from Chemistry field are more active in using e-databases.

Dhingra [6] (2013) conducted a study on usage of consortium for e-resources in agriculture (CeRA) by the faculty of Punjab Agriculture University Ludhiana Study reveals the impact in term of awareness and effective use of the CeRA Consortium journals and constraints like lack of awareness, proper training of users.

Sakshi[7] (2011) revealed in their study on awareness and the use of National Knowledge Resources Consortium of NISCAIR that majority of respondent were well aware of the National Knowledge Resources Consortium and most common problem faced by the users was time consuming while accessing e-journals.

**Objectives of the study**

The objectives of the study are to:

a) To know the awareness of UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium by faculty members, research scholars of the university.

b) To know the satisfaction level in using the e-journals.
c) To know the preference of e-journals over the printed journals.

d) To access and analyse the factors that promote or hinder the use of e-resources.

e) To find out the major problems faced by the users in the usage of e-journals.

Scope of the study

The scope of the study is limited to UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium users of Thiruvalluvar University Library, Vellore.

Methodology

The study is based on the data collected from teachers and research scholars. 155 questionnaire were distributed and 125 filled in questionnaire from the respondent were been collected. The findings of the study are based on the questionnaire collected from the respondent.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Data collected through questionnaire was carefully analysed and processed. Analysis of data has been tabulated.

Table 1: Distribution of questionnaire and responses received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>No of Questionnaire distributed</th>
<th>No of filled questionnaire received</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Members</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>72.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholars</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>155</strong></td>
<td><strong>125</strong></td>
<td><strong>80.6%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

155 questionnaires were distributed and 125 filled up questionnaire were received. The response rate is about 80.6%.
Table 2: Gender wise distribution of respondent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>No of Responses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>58.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows that out of 84 respondent 48 (57.14%) were male and 36 (42.86%) were females.

Table 3: Awareness about UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty members</td>
<td>39 (97.5%)</td>
<td>1 (2.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholar</td>
<td>78 (91.76%)</td>
<td>7 (8.24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>117 (93.6%)</td>
<td>8 (6.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 shows that the majority of the users 117(93.6%) are aware of the UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium.

Table 4: Purpose of using UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>To keep update with latest subject</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>For writing research articles</th>
<th>Teaching</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty members</td>
<td>18 (45%)</td>
<td>7 (17.5%)</td>
<td>8 (20%)</td>
<td>7 (17.5%)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholar</td>
<td>7 (8.23%)</td>
<td>61 (71.77%)</td>
<td>17 (20%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 (20%)</td>
<td>68 (54.4%)</td>
<td>25 (20%)</td>
<td>7 (5.6%)</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The result from the table 4 shows that 68 (54.4%) respondent use consortium for their research purpose, followed by the 25(20%) for writing research articles, and 25 (20%) to keep updated with latest subject information, 7(5.6%) for their teaching purpose.
Table 5: Requirement of print journals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty members</td>
<td>27 (67.5%)</td>
<td>13 (32.5%)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholar</td>
<td>67 (78.82%)</td>
<td>18 (21.18%)</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94 (75.2%)</td>
<td>31 (24.8%)</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data presented in table 5 reveals that out of 94 respondents, 73(75.2%) respondent are shown intense interest in print journals in addition to e-journals but 31 (24.8%) respondents did not feel the requirement.

Table 6: Evaluation of UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty members</td>
<td>11 (27.5%)</td>
<td>9 (47.5)</td>
<td>10 (25%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholar</td>
<td>15 (17.65%)</td>
<td>5 (64.70%)</td>
<td>15 (17.65%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26 (20.8%)</td>
<td>74 (59.2%)</td>
<td>25 (20%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data presented in table 6 reveals the satisfaction level of faculty members and research scholars in using UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium, which shows that the majority of the respondents 74(59.2%) evaluate the UGC INFONET Digital Library consortium as good, whereas 25 (20%) respondents evaluate it as average, and 26 (20.8%) respondent says it excellent.

Table 7 Need more e-journals in UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty members</td>
<td>26 (65%)</td>
<td>14 (35%)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholar</td>
<td>63 (74.12%)</td>
<td>22 (25.88%)</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89 (71.2%)</td>
<td>36 (28.8%)</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The result of table 7 shows that the majority of the users replied that there was need to add more e-journals and few of the users replied that there was no need for more e-journals in the consortium.
Table 8: Access Problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Restricted access</th>
<th>Lack of training program</th>
<th>Lack of sufficient e-journals</th>
<th>Other problems</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty members</td>
<td>18 (45%)</td>
<td>6 (15%)</td>
<td>9 (22.5%)</td>
<td>7 (17.5%)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholar</td>
<td>53 (62.35%)</td>
<td>8 (9.41%)</td>
<td>7 (8.24%)</td>
<td>17 (20%)</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71 (56.8%)</td>
<td>14 (11.2%)</td>
<td>16 (12.8%)</td>
<td>24 (19.2%)</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8 shows the problems encountered by the faculty members and research scholars while using UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium. The majority of the users feel the restricted access problem 71 (56.8%) whereas 24 (19.2%) respondents feel the other types of problems i.e. power failure, time consuming. 16 (12.8%) respondents replied there was lack of sufficient e-journals and 14 (11.2%) respondents said that there was lack of training.

**Conclusion**

The present study shows that most of the faculty members and research scholars are aware of the UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium. Most of the respondents use consortium for their research purpose followed by for writing research articles. 79.2% respondents require more journals in UGC INFONET in addition to the present journals. It is found that 94 (75.2%) respondents have shown intense interest in print journals in addition to e-journals. The study also shows that the majority of the respondents (59.2%) evaluate UGC INFONET consortium as good. The most common problem faced by the respondents was the restricted access followed by time consuming while accessing e-journals.

**References**

available under UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium by Assam University library users. 8th International Caliber, Goa University, Goa, March 02-04, 2011.


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