Ugc-Infonet E-Journals Consortium: Resources and Services in Two Universities of Marathwada Region

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Abstract

This research paper deals with resources and services of UGC-Infonet consortium, which is used by two university libraries in Marathwada region of Maharashtra, India. Library consortium add a vital role for co-ordination, resource sharing and expertise allowing individual libraries to easily obtain large number of titles while also providing advantageous cost depending from the contribution by the member libraries. Users are getting more and more benefits from UGC Infonet e-journal consortium. Majority of university library users fulfill their needs ‘partially’ in Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded and ‘fully’ in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Aurangabad. It is notable that maximum users using internet / e-resources for updating knowledge, email and then for research work. It shows the users like electronic journals than printed journals and some users like both types of journals. Average users are making use of these e-resources. UGC Infonet e-journal consortium allows users to search the electronic resources by thirteen different ways.

Keywords: - INFLIBNET, UGC-Infonet, Use of e-resources, Difficulties of e-resources, popularity of e-resources.

1. Introduction

The purpose of the e-journal consortium is to deliver access to scholarly literature in all streams of knowledge, and to increase the resources and data available to the colleges and universities for teaching and research. Access via e-journal consortium is made using internet protocol address and all member universities and institutions of the project have put up separate computer terminals for using facility. Training has been imparted to library professionals as well as academicians in the use of e-journals and other programs put forth by the executing organizations. The consortium would afford the best current and archival periodical literature from all over the world to the academic community. Besides, it would also go a long way in decreasing the survey shortage of periodicals faced by the libraries.

With the globalization of education and competitive research the demand for journals has growing over the years. Due to financial constraints, growing cost of print documents, storage problem and publication of larger number of journals. No any library is able to procure process or store all the documents that the library user’s demand and these cannot afford to acquire even half of all the published material in terms of money required to purchase. The only solution to solve all constraints is the library cooperation
in the form of resource sharing. Resource sharing plays an important role in providing effective services by reducing the cost of publication and it can be achieved by creating a consortium.

Because of electronic or digital form of information a library consortium is more reliable. Consortia are all approximately sharing and improving access to information. It is group of libraries or other such like organizations that form a corporation to achieve the common goal like shared cataloguing or resource sharing, which cannot be achieved by an individual library. A consortium gives new vision and plays vital role in library resource sharing and networking in higher education and research.

2. Objectives of the present study
1) To know the awareness regarding UGC Infonet electronic resources and services in two universities of Marathwada region of Maharashtra.
2) To know the significance of electronic journals is more than print journals
3) To ascertain the need for user orientation program in accessing e-journals

3. Methodology
Descriptive method is used for the present study. Questionnaire is used as a technique to collect the primary related data from teachers, researchers and post graduate students. The researcher used descriptive method for the present research paper. Here an attempt has been made to present a way of process to the study keeping in mind all objectives of the study a framework of UGC-Infonet digital library consortium users has been designed.

4. Sample population
Approximately 145 questionnaires were circulated in each university. But responses are 143 from Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded library users and 128 from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Aurangabad library users.

5. INFLIBNET
The UGC, become conscious about the necessity and importance of resource sharing among the Indian libraries, took initiative and constituted a committee on National Network System for Universities/Libraries. The committee in its first meeting held during April 1988 decided to set up and Inter Agency Working Group for preparing a detailed project report followed by constitution of a steering committee on Library and Information Network which recommended establishment of information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) for the educational institutes, R & D Laboratories/Institutes of national importance and other agencies concerned with higher education system.

The working group prepared its report which was released by UGC in December 1988. This report was considered by an expert committee during December 1990 and the proposal was agreed in principle which subsequently was sent to Ministry of HRD for approval. On the recommendations of the UGC it was decided that the work on the project during eighth plan would mainly cover library automation and related activities. The commission also constituted an expert committee to work out the revised program
6. UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium

The UGC-Infonet digital library consortium is an ambitious program initiated by UGC to facilitate access to scholarly electronic journals and databases in view of limited resources subscribed by majority of universities. This project is our pride in the field of education and research which was formally launched the concluding day of UGC’s golden jubilee celebrations by his Excellency the president of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at Vigyan Bhavan on 28 December 2003 by dedicating a bouquet of e-journals to the nation. More than 4000 scholarly journals and databases from around 23 major publishers/vendors made available to around 100 universities and other institutes and the remaining universities will be provided access in stages, from the users point of view, it is great bonanza for them is the absence of such access.

7. Facility of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium

UGC Infonet consortium facilitates the libraries to get benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost and the best terms of licenses. A consortium with the collective strength of resources of various institutions available to it is in a better to address and resolve the problems of managing, organizing and archiving the electronic resources. Moreover, the technologies are available on demand. The web based e-resources is an apt answer to the expectations of researchers. The need of e-journals usage at universities in India is basically for the following reasons.
1) Indian Universities are finding it hard to maintain the subscriptions to even for core journals due to ever increasing cost of the journals subscription and also shrinking budget.
2) The average number of subscription to international journals by Indian universities is even less than 300 titles, whereas the average number of journals subscribed by the western countries in much higher.
3) Shrinking fiscal resources, price hike in scientific and technical journals and also social science titles also.
4) Academic and research users can now access to their learned articles in electronic form.

8. Members of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium

The UGC through its program of UGC-Infonet digital library consortium has come forward to help the university libraries, so that access to large number of scholarly online journals is made available to the user community. So far total 419 universities and institutions are members of UGC-Infonet digital library consortium in all over India.

The UGC Infonet digital library consortium has the following two types of members:
8.1 Universities under purview of UGC

Universities, Inter University centers of the UGC and deemed universities that are under direct purview of UGC, are entitled for getting e-resources through the UGC Infonet digital library consortium. The UGC provides funds required for providing differential access to electronic resources as well as internet connectivity to universities directly under the purview of the UGC.

8.2 Associate membership program

The UGC Infonet digital library consortium program aims to enroll private universities and other institutions as members. With an aim to provide they access to e-resources at lower rates of subscription that is being offered to the consortium. The consortium has invited quotations from the publishers for its “Associate members”.

9. Use of UGC-Infonet e-resources in Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded

On 17 September 1994 the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded was established at Nanded bi-furcating the Marathwada University Aurangabad. On which the day in 1948 Hyderabad state was liberated from Nijam ruler. Nanded is districts headquarter as well as a holy place of Sikh’s, situated on bank of Godavari River in Southeastern part of Maharashtra state.

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Library has got UGC Infonet project in phase III rd universities from 17th March 2004 with 512 kbps V-SAT connectivity. From 27th January 2009 it is upgraded with 2MBPS leased line. From 31st December 2010 University is connected through NKN / NME _ICT (National Knowledge Network / National Mission of education through information communication technology) with 10MBPS line. University library has arranged e-journal access facility in the library, UGC computer lab situated in administrative building and in all the campus schools of the university. Approximately 1500+ members are making use of this facility. In this regard university library has arranged many orientation programs in campus for the awareness of use of e-resources for every year. In order to increase its use, links of the e-resources are made available on the university website. While registering as a new member, library provides information brochure about library use. In that the information about e-resources is given.

Users are getting more and more benefits from UGC-Infonet project. On an average 1500 users are making use of these e-resources. UGC Infonet e-journal consortium allows users to search the electronic resources by thirteen different ways. Full flexibility is being made available for searching information. User can select any option to reach their required information. The uniqueness of this facility is that it automatically keeps track on search statistics by different options. User also can open their own account and can add their interested subject keywords, electronic journals of his/her field etc. in order to spread up the search. If needed article is not available online, facility of registering the request to get hard copy is also available through document delivery request scheme.

10. Use of UGC-Infonet e-resources in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Aurangabad
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University library functions differ from those of university libraries situated in urban and metropolitan area like Bombay, Poona and Delhi in a big city there are many educational institutions, which may equal the university towards which the education scholars and the research workers depend upon for the reading material. There are no special in the Marathwada region, which will be able to cater the services in adequate manner. The university was established on 23 August 1958, along with its library, the functioning if the university library started with the appointment of its first librarian Shri N. A. Gore in December 1958.

The available UGC Infonet online journals in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Aurangabad library are as following:

- American Chemical Society
- American Institute of Physics
- American Physical Society
- Annual reviews
- Cambridge University Press
- Economic and Political weekly
- Emerald
- Institute of Physics
- JSTOR
- Oxford University Press
- Project Muse
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- Science Direct (10 Subject Collection)
- Springer link
- Taylor & Francis
- Web of science
- J Gate
- Indian Citation Index

11. **Information sources used by both library users**

A question was asked to know sources of information mostly used by respondents. The options were given as per list of services given by UGC-Infonet digital library consortium. The responses were analyzed and presented in table no. 01

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Users in SRTMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
<th>Users in BAMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1)</td>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>10.13</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>10.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2)</td>
<td>Database search</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>13.74</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>12.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3)</td>
<td>Full text</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>18.26</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>14.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4)</td>
<td>Hard copy</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>5.24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5)</td>
<td>Table of contents</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3.44</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6)</td>
<td>User login</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Majority of users use as a source to ‘full text’ electronic journals and then use ‘database search’ from above options.

12. **User’s opinions of both universities about UGC-Infonet program**

User’s opinions are the most important things in the research to fulfill the objectives. The four options were given i.e. excellent, good, satisfactory and non-satisfactory. The responses were given by users analyzed and presented in table no.02
Excellent | 57 | 35.85 | 68 | 45.95
Good | 61 | 38.36 | 59 | 39.86
Satisfactory | 36 | 22.64 | 18 | 12.16
Non satisfactory | 5 | 3.14 | 3 | 2.03
Total | 159 | 100.00 | 148 | 100.00

Table no. 02 Users opinions of both universities

Figure no. 02 Users opinions of both universities

Maximum library users of Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded opined that UGC Infonet e-journal consortium is ‘Good’ and in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Aurangabad library user’s opined UGC Infonet e-journal consortium is ‘excellent’.

13. Fulfillment level of users’ needs

It is important to know the fulfillment of respondents by services of UGC-Infonet consortium. The four options were given as, fully, partially, up to some extent, very low extent. The data provided by respondents analyzed and presented in table no. 03

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fulfillment level</th>
<th>Users in SRTMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
<th>Users in BAMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>31.41</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>45.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>46.15</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>40.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to some extent</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15.38</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Majority of university library users fulfill their needs ‘partially’ in Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded and ‘fully’ in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Aurangabad.

14. Purpose of using internet/e-resources

The question was asked to the respondents about the purpose of using internet or electronic resources. The given responses were analyzed and presented in table no. 04

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Users in SRTMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
<th>Users in BAMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>For updating knowledge</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>17.98</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>19.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>For research work</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>17.60</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>17.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>For competitive examination</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7.12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>For sending and receiving emails</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>17.98</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>14.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>For making personal contacts by social networking sites</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10.49</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>For lecture preparation</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.61</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>For preparing class notes/lecture respectively</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7.12</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>For use of e-journals</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16.10</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>For other purpose</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>267</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>228</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is notable that maximum users using internet / e-resources for updating knowledge, email and then for research work.

15. **Difficulties in internet usage/access**

The question asked to users about difficulties in internet usage or internet access. The options given to users i.e. overload of information, difficulty in location, privacy problems, less time slot, slow internet speed. The data provided by the respondents were analyzed and presented in table no. 05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Difficulty in internet usage/access</th>
<th>Users in SRTMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
<th>Users in BAMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Overload of information on internet</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22.12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Difficulty in location of relevant information</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21.24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Privacy problems</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10.62</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Less time slot given for internet access</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23.01</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Slow speed of internet</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21.24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>No difficulty</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>113</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>91</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table no. 05  Difficulties in internet usage/access
It means that less time slot given for internet access is big difficulty to users of Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded library. Overload of information on internet, less time slot given for internet access are big difficulties to users of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Aurangabad library.

16. **Form like more to read by users**

The question was posed to respondents about form like more to read. The three options were given to the respondents. The responses were given by respondents analyzed and presented in table no. 06

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Form like more to read by users</th>
<th>Users in SRTMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
<th>Users in BAMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>E-journals</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>56.58</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>54.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Print journals</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>36.84</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>35.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.58</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>76</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>74</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table no. 06  Form like more to read by users
Figure no. 06  Form like more to read by users

Figure no. 06 shows the users like electronic journals than printed journals and some users like both type of journals.

17. Popularity of e-resources than print journals

A question was posed to know that electronic resources become more popular than printed resources in present environment. The six options were given to respondents. The responses were given by users analyzed and presented in table no. 07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Popularity of e-resources than print journals</th>
<th>Users in SRTMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
<th>Users in BAMU</th>
<th>Per. %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Because of their distinct advantages.</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19.14</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>E-resources are simple to use than print material.</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>25.31</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>E-Journals play an important role in automated library.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>14.20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Providing access to online full text information</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18.51</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Considering the importance of electronic information services.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>14.20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Printed versions of books are outdated.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8.64</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>162</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>126</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is clear that majority users said electronic resources have become more popular in the present environment than print journals.

18. Conclusion

It is observed that majority of users use source of ‘full text’ electronic journals and secondly use ‘database search’ for subject related information. It is notable that less time slot given for internet access is big difficulty to users of Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded library. Overload of information on internet, less time slot given for internet access are big difficulties to users of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Aurangabad library. It shows the users like electronic journals than printed journals and some users like both types of journals.

Users are getting more benefits from UGC Infonet e-journal consortium. Average users are making use of these e-resources. UGC Infonet e-journal consortium allows users to search the electronic resources by thirteen different ways. Users can select any option to reach their subject related information. User also can open their own account and can add their interested subject keywords, electronic journals of his/her field in order to spread up the search. It is observed that user orientation and education is important to give maximum users for access information.

References:-


11) www.inflibnet.ac.in/econ