#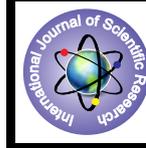 Use and Awarness of U.G.C. Infonet Consortia on The Users of Ranchi University Ranchi in the Region of Eastern India: A Study

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ABSTRACT   *Now day's electronic resources are becoming more prevalent as well as easy to use and consistent also. The electronic resources make the e-learning operative which advances the attention among the students as well as staff and encourage them for the independent learning. This paper discusses the awareness and utilization of e-Resources and UGC Infonet consortium in the users of Ranchi University Ranchi concept of e-resources apart from that this paper also covers the Consortium in Indian context in brief. Today the value of Information and users need have increased enormously so much. No single publisher or institute fulfil their needs.*

Introduction

For hundred years, printed information sources have been used either by users purchasing them, or by using them through libraries. The situation began to change about four decades ago with the introduction of computers in information handling, and there has been a dramatic change over the past few years. Recent developments in information and communication technologies, especially the internet and the web, have brought significance changes in the ways we generate, store, access and make use of Information.[1]Presently E-Journals have become the largest and fastest growing areas of the digitalcollections for most of our libraries. For instance, the E-Journals a few years ago numberedjust few hundreds of titles, are now running in many thousands and the rate of growth isphenomenal as well as amazing. The advancements in digital technologies and the recentproliferation of E-Publishing across the world have brought in a revolution in journalpublication, subscription, and access and delivery mechanism. E-journals are the electronicequivalents of their print counter parts possessing numerous additional features. E-Journalsoften referred to interchangeably as "Electronic Serials", "Online Journals" and "ElectronicPeriodicals". Lancaster (1995) defines E-Journal as "a journal created for the electronicmedium and available only in this medium". Electronic serials may be defined very broadlyas any journal, magazine or newsletter which is available over the internet.[2]

Historical Background of Consortium

The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium was formally launched December, 2003 by

Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, Honourable President of India, soon after providing the internet connectivity to the universities in the year 2003 under the UGC-Infonet programme. The Consortium proved to be a recipe to university libraries, which have beendiscontinuing subscription of scholarly journals because of "Serials Crisis" that refers toexponential and continuing increase in subscription cost of scholarly journals. The crisis is aresult of rise in cost of journals much faster than the rate of inflation; increase in number ofjournals and the paucity of funds available to the libraries.The universities were given benefit of access to e-resources under the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium in a phased manner. In the first phase that began in 2004, access to e-resourceswas provided to 50 universities who had Internet connectivity under the UGC-Infonet. Connectivity programme of the UGC. In the second phase, 50 more universitieswere added to the programme in the year 2005. So far, 150 universities out of 171 thatcome under the purview of UGC have been provided differential access to e-resourcessubscribed under the Consortium. These e-resources covers almost all subject disciplinesincluding arts, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, chemical sciences, lifesciences, computer sciences, mathematics and statistics, etc. The programme is whollyfunded by the UGC and executed by the INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) Centre, Ahmedabad.[3]

STATUS OF CONSORTIA IN INDIA

The history of higher education in India has been started way back to ancient and colonial time whichused to restrict up to oral and written communication only. But modern higher educational system in India has been started 147 years back when grounds of three major universities in Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay were led by the British. Today, we have more than 310 universities and 14000 colleges' affiliatedto these universities and about ten million students are studying in these institutions. All this makes Indian educational system as one of the strongest and largest educational systems in the world. No doubt that it is very complex and complicated to manage this whole educational system in systematicand qualitative manner.

Library is the essential and most important part to drive this whole educational system in systematic way.Students, research scholars, faculty members all have to deal with information only and this is theresponsibilities of the library to collect, manage, and disseminate the information to its user according totheir need. But in true sense university library in India started making progress after 1924 when Dr. S R Ranganathan the father of library science in India, chaired the Madras University Library. He did severalefforts to improve the status of university and college libraries. Establishment of University GrantsCommission (UGC), 1953 as the apex national organization concerned with the setting up andmaintenance of standards in higher education throughout the country was a mile stone in the history ofhigher education in India. Right from very beginning UGC has been giving importance to the development of university and colleges libraries and taking significant steps to improve the higher education.[4]

Due to that reason in order to provide recent Information to the users the consortium term has exist in the world, In context to UGC website, there are more than 171 Universities, Inter University Centres of UGC and Deemed Universities that are under direct purview of UGC, are entitles for getting e-resources through the UGC-INFONET. Apart from that Digital Library Consortium of 171 Universities, 150 Universities that have been given Internet connectivity under the UGC-INFONET Connectivity programme are being provides differential access to e-resources as per the decision of the National Steering Committee of Consortium. However, quite a few of these universities are highly specialized dealingwith subjects like Urdu, Sanskrit, Hindi and Law, etc. As such, these universities do nothave much use for e-resources that are being offer through the Consortium.

The UGC provides funds required for providing differential access to electronic resources aswell as Internet connectivity to universities directly under the purview of the UGC.

The Consortium provides differential access to more than 5,000 scholarly journals and tenbibliographic databases from 23 major publishers (including scholarly societies, universitypresses and aggregators) to more than 125 universities. Besides access to their currentissues, most journals are available with their archives from 1997 onwards. Some of thepublishers like American Chemical Society, Institute of Physics, and JSTOR provide access totheir contents from Vol. 1 onwards.

The access to e-resources is IP-enabled for the universities covered under the consortium.Users in the universities can browse, search, download and print full-text articles relevant totheir research and academic work without any restrictions in terms of number of articlesthat they can download or number of simultaneous users. Multiple users can access thedatabases and e-journal platforms simultaneously. The INFLIBNET Web Site(http://www.inflibnet.ac.in) hosts a search interface to search these journals, their URLsand member institutions.The INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad also maintains one print copy of the journals fromseveral publishers as a national print archive. The research and academic community canrefer the print journals at the INFLIBNET centre.

OVERVIEW OF UNIVERSITY OF RANCHI
Ranchi University came into existence on the 12th of July, 1960 as a teaching-cum-affiliating university with headquarters at Ranchi. At present, the University spans five districts of Jharkhand, namely, Ranchi, Gumla, Khunti, Simdega and Lohardaga. Right since its inception Ranchi University has been alive to the ever increasing demands of higher education. Keeping apace with changing times, the University.7

Ranchi University has a central library having more than 90000 text books, 10000 reference books and 350 PhD theses. Students, research scholars and teachers use these materials in its calm, comforting and serene atmosphere. With the introduction of fully operational INFLIBNET facility (connected through dedicated lease line to INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmadabad) the utility of central library has increased many fold. Several thousand e-journals are thus made available which will immensely help research scholars, students and teachers. As far as extending this facility to other units is concerned this will act as a central hub. Connectivity has already been extended to Ranchi College and very soon all university departments and ASC will have this facility. Considering its importance its working hour has been extended up to 8pm. Automation of the library has been completed.

• Connected to INFLIBNET, Ahmadabad, through dedicated Lease Line(1Gbps) with 25 thin client computer.
• Online access to more than 4200 international and national journals.
• Reprographic facility available.8

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY
• To identify the awareness of UGC Infonet Consortia among the users.
• To identify the purpose of use.
• Identify the satisfaction of users.

METHODOLOGY
For achievement of the research objective I have used random sampling methods. And a research is conducted through questionnaires among the users of Ranchi University. I had distribute 70 questionnaires and got the response only 40 users in different category i.e. MALE-28/FEMALE-12, According to designation Prof.-2/Asso.Prof.-2/Asstt.Prof.-6 R.S.-6/Student-21/Others-3.

ANALYSIS OF DATA
Out of 70 questionnaires I have received 40 questionnaire and analysis' them accordingly.

1. Identify the awareness and usability of the users for e resources and consortium. Here users can select multiple options in figure no.1.
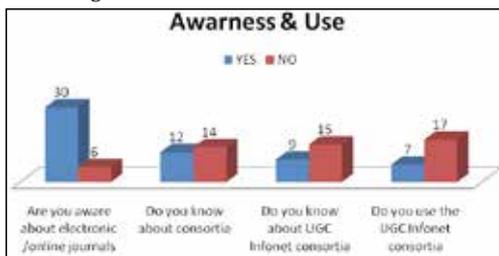

Figure-1 Awareness & Use

2. To analyze main purpose of use to UGC Infonet Consortia. Here uses can select more than one option in figure no.2.
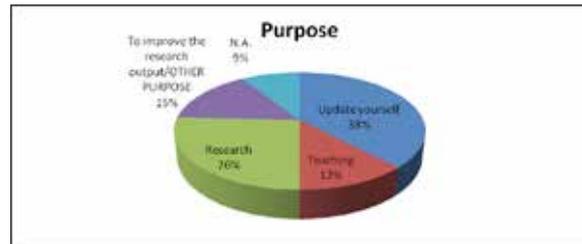

Figure-2 Purpose

3. Purpose of this statement to; analyze the satisfaction level of users by UGC Infonet consortia. Here user also selects more than one option in figure no.3.
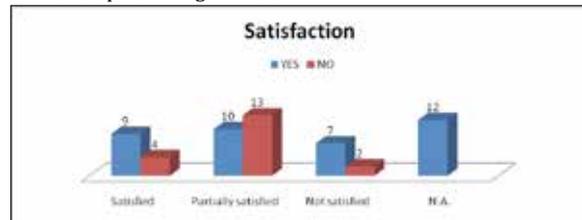

Figure-3 Satisfaction

SALIENT FEATURES OF E-JOURNALS
E-journals are becoming increasingly in demand both as a means of rapid desktop access to current research materials and as a way to view past volumes. E-journals offer a range of potential advantages to libraries and end-users:ww

1. Allow out-of-the-way access
2. Can be used simultaneously by more than one user
3. Provide timely Access and at a 24 X 7 X 365 formula.
4. Supports different searching capabilities
5. Accommodate unique features
6. Save physical storage space
7. Can support multimedia information

ROLE OF UGC INFONET CONSORTIUM 5
1. It makes a ground for Scalable architecture to grow from Universities to affiliated colleges
2. Nation-wide Terrestrial Backbone using Fiber Optic links;
3. Integrated Satellite WAN supporting broadband and SCPC -VSAT technology;
4. Comprehensive Network Management Systems for overall monitoring of the network, down toeach and every device;
5. Linkage with other Academic and Research Networks all over the world;
6. Data security and virus protection using firewalls and Intrusion Detection Systems;
7. Dedicated Data Centre for Web hosting, e-Journals and Mail Boxes;
8. Mirror sites spread all over the country for content hosting andBroadband Multimedia and Video Channels for Distance Learning

NEED OF E-JOURNAL CONSORTIUM 6
The following few factors that necessitate the need for building library. E-Journal consortia are as follows:

· The exponential growth of knowledge population, document as made it more and more impossiblefor the individual library to purchase all the relevant information. The effect has been that librarieshave become more and more dependent on inter lending in order to fulfil the requirements of theirusers.
· The developments in scientific publishing and price policies of publishers posed new challengesand opportunities for academic libraries in purchasing and managing the serials within theirrestricted budget. So to solve the ongoing serial crisis, it is essential for a common infrastructurea firm to

share the resources among libraries.

· The overwhelming application of new technologies, new methods of information retrieval/dissemination has contributed to rapid escalating user expectations in the sense that the usersexpect library information to be delivered as fast as any other information they need.

· The rapid technological developments have resulted in a constant pressure for new hardware, software and education and training of library staff.

· Better sharing of existing resources and jointly acquiring new resources at great savings.

· Providing enhanced library services with an emphasis on access to new electronic resourcesincluding databases and services offered through the Internet and the www.

· To leverage resources by sharing existing collections or resources through virtual union cataloguesand material de-livery services that provides reciprocal access from member library holdings.

· To reduce the cost of member library operations by obtaining coup purchase price for information products.

· To bring pressures to bear on information providers to reduce the rate of risen the cost of purchasing information.

CONCLUSION

The study has shown that demand and usability of e-journals play a vital role in higher education and research. UGC Infonet Consortia is a main platform for university as well as research institute library for availability of electronic resources in a very low cost. The study has showed that users of Ranchi University are aware about UGC Infonet consortia. And partially satisfied with available of e resources in university library

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