

Role of UGC- INFLIBNET to enhance Higher Education

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(Received on 19.05.2023, Revised on 30.07.2023, Approved on 09.08.2023, Accepted on 28.08.2023, Published on 21.12.2023)

How to cite this article: Kathuria K. and Kaur A. (2023). Role of UGC- INFLIBNET to enhance Higher Education. *Library Progress International*, 43(2), 187-193.

ABSTRACT

For the benefit of their users, libraries and information centers are preserving a significant amount of electronic data or information in the form of text, images, and numbers. All material is distributed via CD-ROM, DVD, Internet, etc. regardless to where the computer is located or how it is stored. The function of digital libraries in the modern information world, as well as new opportunities and challenges for library services. An electronic collection of physical or digital materials that may also be found elsewhere will be referred to as a digital library. These materials must be complete works that permit full cognitive and practical involvement from people. On the Internet, there are many resources that are accessible for free, and there are also many commercial resources that libraries can subscribe to for a set fee. Many academic libraries in India have consortia-based subscriptions to electronic tools. INFLIBNET is operating consortia like e-ShodhSindhu at University level and N-List Program at College level throughout the India. This paper will discuss the major initiatives/program taken or organized by University Grant Commission to promote higher education.

KEYWORDS: Electronic Resources, Consortia, INFLIBNET, E-ShodhSindhu, N-ListProgram, Shodhganga, IRINS, e-PG Pathshala, SOUL, INDCat., ShodhShuddhi.

INTRODUCTION

Electronic resources have altered how all libraries operate and provide services in the modern age. From the perspective of users, e-resources have significantly met their requirements, and users are very happy with them. E-Resources are accessible in libraries and provide full-text content or PDF files to all users. Many e-resources are standardized and academic, and they satisfy users' requirements.

E-journals with primary material are more quickly accessible in libraries than printed versions. ICT is a crucial component of every library because it enables the delivery of e-resources to library customers. The internet is a useful resource that enables library patrons to find any required data or information. Since e-resources have altered how libraries operate, they are now more focused on subscriptions, e-resource accessibility, e-resource periodicity, and e-resource dissemination. Users of e-

Resources have fast and simple access to them. E-resources also give rise to the idea of consortia, which offers a platform for two or more libraries to subscribe to a large number of e-resources while only paying a small membership fee between the libraries. As a result, all libraries gain access to all resources for a reasonable fee.

E-RESOURCES IN LIBRARIES

Materials that are accessible electronically are known as e-resources. E-Resources are available online as well as on CD-ROM, DVD, and other media. E-Resources are the progression from written materials. It can be copied or scanned on a computer screen. E-resources in the shape of hypertext include books, journals, magazines and other resources in electronic form. E-resources come in a variety of formats, including text, graphics, photos, animation, audio-visual content, and multimedia. E-resources are readily accessible, of high quality, and can be stored on CD-ROM, DVD, Pen Drive, etc. or read online. Any person can use it at any time or place. Online content or electronic resources are both accessible. The parent school provides standardized or commercial e-resources in publication form. It can be made available through their website links or distributed via CD-ROM, DVD, etc. ICT is used to obtain e-resources, and the Internet is a key component of this process. Electronic tools like computers, iPads, and mobile phones are crucial for gaining entry to all online resources. These devices make it simple to obtain and deliver electronic resources.

Features of E-resources:

- Users of e-Resources can readily access them
- E-Resources are easily available
- Save both users' and library staff's time.
- E-Resources encourage library purchase
- E-Resources are uniform.
- Easy subscription to e-resources
- Databanks for e-resources can be created quickly.
- E-resource usage and status can be readily viewed.
- E-resources are readily available on a single platform.

- Provide the quickest information
- Easily downloaded and delivered through attachments
- Are simple to keep records for.
- E-resources are not geographically or chronologically constrained.
- They can be scanned by multiple users simultaneously
- They are simple to access, store, and deliver.
- They can be easily revised and amended when necessary.
- They take up little space.
- They can be prepared in multiple copies.
- Users are becoming more satisfied with e-resources.
- Any issue relating to e-resources can be resolved by discussing with the publisher online.

Electronic resources are mainly of two types:

- **Online:** E-Books, E-Journals, Online Databases, web based
- **Election Devices:** CD-ROM/DVD/Pen Drive/Portable Devices

Major advantage of e-Resources:

Due to the numerous benefits that e-Resources offer, their appeal with users is rising daily, few of them listed below:

- E-Resources help employees and users save time. Because e-resources are accessible in an organized way, users can scan them easily on the screen and staff time is also saved. Employee time may be used for other library projects.
- E-Resources offer their customers multiple access points. On other electronic devices, e-resources can be copied and shared. Users of any electronic device with an Internet connection can view the online e-resources.
- Online e-resources can be easily accessed, and users of computers can access e-resources that are available on CD-ROM, DVD, or Pen Drive.
- It solve the problem space which is very common. In an electronic state, a computer or other electronic device can upload a lot of data. Users can simply receive printouts of specific data if they request them.
- E-Resources support the operation of libraries by allowing them to provide data

or information in an organized electronic version. Additionally, accountability and understanding of library power grew.

- Content detail is listed with e-resources which users can quickly read or fully scan the necessary data or information.
- E-resources are less expensive than printed materials. The choice of these electronic tools may be more advantageous financially.

Disadvantages of E-Resources:

- It costs a lot of money to buy the necessary hardware and software.
- A significant portion of library staff are unfamiliar with ICT.
- Not all libraries will be at ease with applying these.
- A sizable portion of users find printed products more comfortable.
- It lessens the use of online tools.
- E-Resources are always available through the Internet.
- E-Resources are not secure when used with electronic devices like computers, CD-ROMs, DVDs, and Pen Drives because their lifespan is shorter than that of printed materials.
- Regular Internet access and a backup power supply are necessary.

Consortia of E-Resources:

A consortium is a common platform for a collection of groups that works together to achieve a shared goal by pooling their resources. It can be viewed as a platform used by many different groups in order to pursue their shared interests. A large number of e-resources are made available to its member libraries by various library consortia for the purpose of bringing together various libraries which have common interests on a single platform. Such Consortia can be at local, regional, national or worldwide levels.

Why E-Resources Needed in Libraries?

Libraries have recently been spending out a lot of money to buy their materials. The demands of library users are rising daily in this age, and since no library can meet all of these demands, libraries are considering how they can do so given their limited resources. Consortia thus

serve the shared interests of all involved institutions. Library A consortium is a collection of two or more organizations with a shared goal. It subscribes to a large number of electronic tools for its member libraries and levies a small fee on an annual basis. Library consortiums can readily accomplish the following common goals.

- Variety of users.
- Selection of common qualitative material
- To reduce economic burden of the libraries
- To promote resource- sharing behavior among libraries

E-RESOURCES CONSORTIA FOR UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

For promoting higher education INFLIBNET play a vital role. The major activities of INFLIBNET to promote academic environment and libraries as under:

E-Consortium

E-ShodhSindhu:

The UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, N-LIST, and INDEST-AICTE Consortium were combined to form e-ShodhSindhu by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (presently known as the Ministry of Education). The e-ShodhSindhu will continue to offer access to electronic resources to its member institutions which mainly listed as centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges (12(B) and 2(f) Sections). It provides current as well as archival access to more than 10,000 electronic journals. This also provides access to number of databases covering various disciplines. The consortium mainly works for providing access to subscription based electronic resources to its member institutes. (Gupta, 2017)

ShodhShuddi: As the name indicates this is plagiarism detection software (PDS). This project was initiated by Union Minister for Human resource development (HRD) in the year 2019. This found to be very helpful to develop quality and standard in Higher education system. INFLIBNET, a UGC Inter University Centre (IUC) is providing this service. By ensuring the originality of thoughts and publication of the research academics,

Shodh Shuddhi will substantially contribute to improving the quality of research findings to all universities and institutions in India.

More than 1000 organizations listed as under are the member of this project

- Central Universities
- State Universities
- Deemed to be University
- Private Universities
- Centrally funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs)
- Inter University Centre (IUCs) of UGC (Inflibnet, 2023)

N-LIST: It stands for National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST). The project initially i.e. 2009 started as an autonomous project for the development of academic community but later in the year 2019 it came under e-ShodhSindhu consortium as college component. Through server(s) located in the INFLIBNET center the N-LIST project offers access to e-resources to academic community of colleges. The authorized users from colleges can now access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET centre. The users can access electronic resources which include books, journals and database. (N-List, 2023)

Infistats: The INFLIBNET Centre created the InfiStats Usage Statistics Portal to track the usage patterns of different e-resources made available to member institutions by the e-Shodh Sindhu Consortium. Through the SUSHI Protocol, InfiStats collects COUNTER Usage data for its subscribers. The publisher's website imports the utilization information into the InfiStats portal. Member institutes can access journal title level utilization through the InfiStats interface. The member can use this portal to log in and track how their individual, centrally funded e-resources are being used. Additionally, the portal offers a choice to incorporate member institutions' self-subscribed resource utilization and InfiStats portal monitoring. (InfiStats, 2023)

INFED: Shibboleth, a standard-based open-source software, has been adopted by the first Federation in India, the INDIAN Access Management Federation (INFED), to authenticate authorized users from colleges and universities and provide them with seamless access to electronic resources from anywhere at any time. One of the main responsibilities of the INFLIBNET Centre is to give Indian institutions and colleges access to scholarly e-resources through the e-ShodhSindhu. The INFED is being established as a centralized organization to collaborate with member institutions during the process of implementing user authentication and access control mechanisms distributed across participating institutions using standardized rules and metadata for sharing of attributes. (INFED, 2023)

Open Access Initiatives

Shodhganga: In order to facilitate open access to Indian theses and dissertations by the academic community worldwide, the UGC Notification (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009 Amendment made on 2016) dated 5 May 2016 mandates submission of electronic versions of theses and dissertations by researchers in universities. In addition to ensuring simple access and archiving of Indian doctoral theses the online accessibility of electronic theses through centrally managed digital repositories will also contribute to improving the standard and caliber of research. The INFLIBNET Center is in charge of managing Electronic Theses and Dissertations also known as "Shodhganga," which are available to all colleges and universities. (Shodhganga, 2023)

Shodhgagotri: This is an institutional repository of INFLIBNET Centre. It provides bibliographic detail of articles published in all conventional proceedings of INFLIBNET Centre. It also provides various training material, press clippings, newsletters etc of the centre. (Shodhgagotri, 2023)

INFOPORT (INFLIBNET Subject Gateway for Indian Electronic-Resources): Through this the INFLIBNET Institute encourages free access to academic publications in India. The InfoPort is a

comprehensive gateway to all Indian scholarly material, while the Centre uses and promotes Intute, a well-known topic gateway created by MIMAS, UK. It provides access to the Indian scholarly material that is dispersed across the Internet through an integrated interface that supports search, browsing and multiple listing the gateway. Through a thorough testing and evaluation process the InfoPort carefully selects and catalogues free access online resources of Indian origin on a variety of topics. The Center suggests working together with academics and librarians from colleges and universities to identify and choose tools. (InfoPort, 2023)

Projects & Services

E-PG Pathshala: e-PG Pathshala is a project of the MHRD's National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT). It is being carried out by the University Grant Commission. Since content and its quality make up the main building blocks of the educational system subject experts working in Indian universities and other research and development facilities across the nation have created high quality curriculum-based interactive e-content in 70 subjects. It covers all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts and humanities, mathematical sciences, linguistics and languages. Proper panel which includes the principal investigator, paper coordinators, content writers, content reviewers, language editors, and multimedia team were all assigned to each topic (e-PG Pathshala, 2023)

Vidwan Database: This is the most comprehensive database of profiles of scientists, researchers and other faculty members employed by top universities and other research and development organizations engaged in both education and research in India is called VIDWAN. It offers crucial details about the expert's background, contact information, expertise, academic publications, qualifications, and accomplishments along with other details. The National Mission provides funds for the project and is very beneficial for Education through ICT, the Information and Library Network Centre (INFLIBNET) created and maintains the database (NME-ICT). The database will be helpful in choosing expert

panels for committees and task forces that have been established by government agencies and ministries for monitoring and evaluation reasons. (Vidwan, 2023)

Vidya-Mitra: This is an e-content portal created under the NME-ICT (National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology), MHRD, Government of India. All e-content are housed on the online learning portal. In this portal more than 50 e-content projects are being created or are in development under NME-ICT in various subject areas. A learner may quickly access the needed material including audio/video learning, textual, multimedia-enriched etc. through a single interface thanks to the portal's search and browsing functionality. Additionally, this portal provides the facility like faceted search, usage statistics, project-based access and My-Space. The main subject areas covered under this project include Arts, Humanities & Language; Engineering and Technology; Physical and basic Science; Medical and Health Sciences; Life Sciences and Social Sciences. (Vidya mitra, 2023)

IRINS (Indian Research Information Network System): This is a web-based Research Information Management (RIM) service developed by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre. The project is very helpful for academics and R & D organisations. It facilitates faculty members, scientists to collect, circulate and showcase the scholarly communication activities and provide an opportunity to create the scholarly network. The IRINS is available as free software-as-a-service to the academic and R&D organisations in India. The IRINS would enable the integration of the current research management systems, including the human resources system, course management system, grant management system, institutional repository, free and paid citation databases, academic publishers, etc. For ingesting scholarly publications from different sources, it has integrated with academic identities like ORCID ID, Scopus ID, Research ID, Microsoft Academic ID, and Google Scholar ID. (IRINS, 2023)

Library Automation

IndCat: Union Catalogue: One of the most significant activities of the Centre since its inception has been the creation of Union Databases of various library materials including books, theses and serials. The Center initially provided funding to potential colleges across the nation for the creation of bibliographic records of their library holdings. The Center created "IndCat: Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities," which includes bibliographic records for books, theses, and serials that participating universities have contributed in all fields, including computer science, philosophy, religion, social sciences, technology, the arts, literature, history, and science. These database has 4,44,377 Unique Ph.d Records of 456 Universities, Serial Database has 37,015 Records of 238 Institutions, and IndCat Book Database has 1,46,60,440 Unique Records with 2,09,58,191 containing details of 227 Indian Universities. (Indcat, 2023)

SOUL: The INFLIBNET Centre created and developed Software for University Libraries (SOUL) a cutting-edge integrated library management system focused on the needs of college and university libraries. It is software that is easy to use and was created for client-server environments. The programme complies with global norms for networking, circulation, and bibliographic forms. The software was created to automate all housekeeping tasks in libraries after a thorough analysis, discussions, and deliberations with top professionals across the nation. The software is appropriate for all sizes and types of libraries, including classroom libraries, in addition to academic libraries. SOUL 1.0 the first release of the programme was made available during CALIBER 2000. The newest version of the SOUL 2.0 software was launched in January 2009. (Soul, 2023)

CONCLUSION

E-Resources have altered how all libraries operate. It encourages study and teaching initiatives. E-resources are more comfortable for users than printed information. The goal of all libraries can be met if every user believes that e-

resources meet their needs. INFLIBNET centre play a significant role to promote use of electronic resources by introducing above listed consortia and projects. As a result, libraries should encourage the use of digital resources so that their information needs can be fulfilled within limited budgets. This will find to be very helpful to develop good academic culture of a reputed standard.

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