Use of E-Shodhsindhu Consortium for Higher Education by Science Faculty Members of Karnataka State: A Study

Abstract

The University Library & Information Centers are playing a prominent role in procurement, organization, preservation of resources and providing access to the research scholars. These centers are the basic source of information for present and future generations. Libraries and information centres are the primary source of information or documents to students, research scholars and faculty in universities. Libraries are the basic support for teaching, research and advanced studies in universities. Though, libraries strive to provide all the required resources to their clientele, but unable to meet their complete requirements in spite of spending maximum of their budgets. Moreover, cost escalations of resources and shrinking library budgets and ever increasing users demands for resources have posing constant challenges to librarians. Further no library is self sufficient to meet the entire research requirements, but relies on sharing the resources among themselves. Resource sharing also helps libraries to meet the gaps in individual library collection and when they cannot afford to purchase resources for their users. In addition to libraries mutually sharing resources, many library resource sharing networks and consortia are formed in this electronic and digital era and helping the member libraries to share their resources and increase the research output of the organization.

Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre is an autonomous Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India. It is a major National Programme initiated by the UGC in March 1991 with its Head Quarters at Gujarat University Campus, Ahmedabad. Initially started as a project under the IUCAA, it became an independent Inter-University Centre in June 1996.

INFLIBNET is involved in modernizing university libraries in India and connecting them as well as information centres in the country through a nation-wide high speed data network using the state-of-art technologies for the optimum utilisation of information. INFLIBNET is set out to be a major player in promoting scholarly communication among academicians and researchers in India.

e-Shodh Sindhu

Based on the recommendation of an Expert Committee, the MHRD has formed e-Shodh Sindhu merging three consortia initiatives, namely UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, NLIST and INDEST-AICTE Consortium. The e-Shodh Sindhu will continue to provide current as well as archival access to more than 15,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines from a large number of publishers and aggregators to its member institutions including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) Sections of the UGC Act.

Aims and Objectives

The main objective of the e-Shodh Sindhu: Consortia for Higher Education E-Resources is to provide access to qualitative electronic resources including full-text,
bibliographic and factual databases to academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription. The major aims and objectives of the e-Shodh Sindhu are as follows:

- Setting-up e-Shodh Sindhu: Consortia for Higher Education E-Resources by augmenting and strengthening activities and services offered by three MHRD-funded Consortia;
- Develop a formidable collection of e-journals, e-journal archives and e-books on perpetual access basis;
- Monitor and promote usage of e-resources in member universities, colleges and technical institutions in India through awareness and training programmes;
- Provide access to subscription-based scholarly information (e-books and e-journals) to all educational institutions;
- Provide access to scholarly content available in open access through subject portals and subject gateways;
- Bridge digital divide and move towards an information-rich society;
- Provide access to selected e-resources to additional institutions including open universities and MHRD-funded institutions that are not covered under existing consortia;
- Take-up additional activities and services that require collaborative platform and are not being performed by existing Consortia; and
- Moving towards developing a National Electronic Library with electronic journals and electronic books as its major building blocks.

**Members**

12 (B) / 2 (f) State Universities(139), Central Universities(40), Deemed Universities (UGC funded)(22), IUCs of UGC(6), National Law Schools/Universities(15)

**E-Resources:** 11221 Journals,

**Budget Plan-518 Non Plan 476 Crore 2014-15**

Govt of India give the budget to inflibnet above 1000 crore hence

The suggestions from the present study may be proved to be useful for the consortia to extend their services and resources, for university libraries to know about the usability of e-resources and for organizing information literacy programmes in the university libraries for their users.