

Utilization of e-resources (N-list) by the faculty and students of Govt. First Grade Colleges in Chikkamagalur District: A Study

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ABSTRACT

Through this study an attempt has been made to determine the several aspects of use of E-Resources specially INFLIBNET N-List by the teaching faculty and Students of the first grade colleges of Chickmagalur District, affiliated to Kuvempu University. For data collection, structural questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the 270 users of different colleges. The objectives of the study were to know the awareness about N-List programme of INFLIBNET Centre, purpose of use of e-resources, Linking patterns of e- resources and problem encountering while using the e-resources.

KEYWORDS: E-Resources, N-List Programme, ICT.

1. INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is the biggest achievement in the evolution of mankind ICT is any system designed to gather, Process, or distribute information or it is the science and skill of all aspects of computing, data storage, and communication. ICT may be any combination of tools and procedures that facilitate the generation, acquisition, storage, organization, retrieval, searching, viewing, updating and transmission of information using electronic means. The tools used in ICT include purpose-built computer programs, databases, communication networks, analysis and design methods, programming languages, artificial intelligence, robotics, knowledge bases, etc. ICT has long standing influence in almost all areas of human activity. It acts as a catalyst in all spheres of science and technology. *Haneefa, M.K. &Shukkoor, C.K. (2010)*

N-LIST Program

The project entitled N-LIST or “National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content” is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India under its National Mission on Education through ICT program, which operates through its headquarter set-up at the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The project was formerly launched by honorable Union Minister of Human Resource Development Sri Kapil Sibal on 4th May 2012 and is being jointly executed by the UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium (now it is e-ShodhSindhu), INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT, Delhi.

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National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST) is one of the major programmes of UGC. It enables access to selected e-resources of many popular publishers and cross subscription to e-resources for the benefits of students, researchers and faculty of colleges, universities and other various institutions under this programme. The registered users from colleges and universities can able to access e-resources needed by them through the links listed in N-LIST website to the publishers' sites. To do this, the users have to register their names first in the programme and the same should be forwarded by their institution or college. Once they are duly authenticated as authorized users in the servers of INFLIBNET centre then they can start using and accessing the resources. A total number of 5000+ colleges have already registered themselves with the NLIST programme including 3900+ government/ government aided colleges covered under the section 12B/ 2F of UGC Act as well as non aided colleges (Except agriculture, engineering, management, medicals, pharmacy, dentistry and nursing). Through 25+ directories users have access to 6000+ e-journals, 97000+ e-books, articles, etc. especially in the field of law and other subjects.

The N-LIST project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculties from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through servers installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The authorized users from colleges can access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website (<http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in>) with individual user id and password once they are duly authenticated as authorized users.

Government First Grade College, Sringeri, Chikkamagaluru district affiliated to Kuvempu University and these Colleges having Faculty strength of 30 and more than 483 Students are studying in different discipline and most of the students of coming from rural areas. The Colleges have good infrastructure with library and Information Centers. The libraries have good Collection in printed and electronic form, most of the student use library sources up to maximum extent. All the libraries have good Internet facility with subscription of e-resources and N-List Program and user can also search information through many free databases.

Present status of N-List Programmes

More than 5100 colleges in the country have registered with N-LIST Programme which includes more than 3900 Government/Government aided colleges covered under the section 12B/2F of UGC Act and Non-Aided colleges. All e-resources subscribed for colleges under the N-LIST Project are now accessible to these 3900+ colleges through the N-LIST website <http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in>.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of relevant literature is nearly always a standard chapter of a thesis or dissertation. Review of literature provides the background to and justification for the research. Literature reviews help us to see the full picture and uncovering new evidence on this topic. It encourages objective thinking, and systematic approach to the research.

Ravi B and Somasekhar Y L (2011) Status of college libraries in India in accessing N-LIST services: an observation" they have compared the government colleges from different states and union territories and the registered colleges using NLIST services. Only a few colleges are registered for N-LIST services. Those not registered with N-LIST due to lack of funds cannot access the e-journals and e-books available with N-LIST. The

authors suggest that the government and NAAC should make it mandatory for colleges to register with N-LIST and that INFLIBNET should provide the necessary awareness and orientation programmes.

Sunil D Punwatkar and Sandip S Salunke (2012) 'Impact of ICT on library users for accessing eresources available under N-List programme', studied the impact of ICT on library users with special reference to UGCINFLIBNET. INFLIBNET helps in resource sharing through its various modules including N-LIST. These provide peer reviewed journals, abstracts, etc.

Mangesh Talmale and Avinash Humilore (2012) "SWOT analysis of N-LIST programme" [4] have conducted strength, weakness, opportunity and threat analysis of N-LIST programme. SWOT analysis helps in evaluating the strengths to overcome weaknesses, using opportunities to overcome threats and take appropriate strategic actions. According to them, changes take place due to many factors such as technology, demographic features, economic factors, etc. Many problems can be solved if member libraries agree to use common library automation systems, standards and formats.

Dr Chikkamanju, Mallinath Kumbar and G Kiran Kumar (2013)" Use of N-LIST services by the faculty and students of University of Mysore: a comparative study" [2] presented in the National Seminar on emerging trends in ERMS in college libraries , September 27 & 28, 2013 studied the factors affecting the optimum utilization of N-LIST services, place of access, purpose of use, types of services, level of satisfaction, problems faced while accessing, training/orientation programmes and preferred external medium of storage for storing the data downloaded via NLIST services. The questionnaire and interview method was used for the study. It was found that students and faculty mostly access N-LIST services for seminar presentations. They faced the problem of retrieval of irrelevant information. Majority of those included in the study were moderately satisfied with the information retrieved through N-LIST

Dr Manoj Kumar Sinha, Sucheta Bhattacharya and Sudip Bhattacharya (2013) "ICT and Internet literacy skills for accessing to e-resources available under N-LIST programme: a case study of college library users of Barak Valley, South Assam [6] tries to gain knowledge about the N-LIST programme implementation and the status of ICT and Internet literacy skills among the college library users from selected colleges. Survey method was used for the study, including questionnaire, observation of the participants and interview of some of the participants. Some of the suggestions given by the authors were as follows

3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is confined to assess the utilization of N-list e-resources among permanent faculty members and students of Government First Grade Colleges of Sringeri, Chikkamagaluru district.

3.1 Need for the Study

The study reveals the drawbacks of the information access through print media. It elucidates the wide growing gap in volume of consumption between print media and electronic media. The study is confined to assess the utilization of N-List e-resources among students and faculty members of higher education especially in the rural Govt. First Grade Colleges of Karnataka.

3.2 Objectives of the Study

- ✓ To know the ICT Knowledge of the User
- ✓ To study the use of different types of electronic resources accessed by faculty members and students;
- ✓ To ascertain the awareness of N-LIST programme among college teachers and Students.
- ✓ To understand the usage pattern of e-resources by the teachers in Science and Social Science faculty;
- ✓ To examine the frequency of access to the consortium.
- ✓ To ascertain the preference of e-resources;
- ✓ To draw opinions from the users about N-LIST service;
- ✓ To ascertain the need for user orientation programme on N-List
- ✓ To examine the various suggestions put forward by user community.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The term 'methodology' means, "The techniques and frames of reference by which researchers approach and carry out an enquiry" (Busha & Harter, 1980). Research methodology means "research methods or techniques refer to the methods, the researchers use in performing research operations". (Kothari, 2004).

5. TYPES OF E-RESOURCE ACCESSED

Table shows the e-resource accessed by the users to seek information E-journals preferred by 71 (78.88%) users, followed by CD-ROM databases accessed by 8 (8.88%) users, and other e-resources accessed by 11 (12.22%) users respectively

E-Resources	GFGC-Sringeri (N=90)
E-journals	71 (78.88%)
CD-ROM	8 (8.88%)
Other E-resources	11 (12.22%)

Table: Types of E-resource

5.1 Purpose of using electronic resources

The purpose for which the E-resource were used by the users, as shown in the table 5, indicates that the majority of them 84 users uses E Resources for Academic assignment, and 30 (33.33%) users for Project Work. 30 (33.33%) of users are indicated for seminar followed by 6.67% users for Teaching.

Purpose	GFGC-Sringeri (N=90)
For Teaching	6 (6.67%)
For Research	2 (2.22%)
For Writing Articles	5 (5.56%)
For Seminar	19 (21.11%)
For Assignment	28 (31.11%)
For Project Work	30 (33.33%)

Table: Purpose of using electronic resources

5.2 Problems in Accessing E-resources

The table shows that majority of the users (42, 46.66%) expressed lack of knowledge and skills to access e-resources is the major problem and 43.33% of the users agreed that too much of information is retrieved and find out the right information is the challenge. 51.11% of users indicated that limited access to computer and Internet connectivity is one of the problem to access e-resources. Limited users (2.22%) agreed and pointed out that limited power supply is also one of the problems in rural colleges.

Problems in Accessing e-resources	GFGC-Sringeri (N=90)
Lack of E-resource knowledge and skills	42 (46.66)
Limited Access to Computers and Internet connectivity	46 (51.11)
Too much of information is retrieved	39 (43.33)
Limited Power supply	2 (2.22)
No support from Library Staff	0 (00.00)

Table : Problems in Accessing E-resource

5.3 User education on N-List programme

The majority of the user, 110 felt that they need training to learn more about N-List programme in order to access the e-resources, followed by 90 users, need training on information retrieval skills, while 70 users wanted overall development of ICT knowledge.

User education program on N-List	Response received	Percentage (%)
Need of user education on N-List	110	40.74
Information retrieval skills	90	33.33
Overall development of ICT Knowledge	70	25.92

Table: User education program on N-List

FINDINGS

Based on the above analysis, finding of the study are given below.

- Majority of respondents are accessing e-resources once in week.
- Large number of respondents preferring e-journals and e-books than other e-resources.
- Only average number of respondents has the knowledge of IT.
- More numbers of respondents are accessing e-resources for their seminar/assignment and project reports purpose.
- Major portion of respondents are expressed that lack of e-resources knowledge and accessing skills, limited accessibilities, too much information and limited power supply are the major problems faced by the respondents.
- Majority of respondents felt that, they need proper training and awareness to use e-resources including N-List effectively.

CONCLUSION

Now a day's e-resources are gaining more importance in higher education and N-List is the major facility provided by the Govt. to access e-resources in the college level. Everybody who are working and studying in the Govt. First Grade Colleges need to utilize these resources in maximum extent.

Above study reveals that majority of respondents don't have good knowledge about e-resources in these colleges, but they have indicated their willingness to get trained to learn more about using the internet and e-resources.

The College Librarians should play the major role in the use of e-resources and services, many of the students and staff don't have good knowledge of computer and e-resources and they have not undergone any training on e-resources. Hence, to overcome these drawbacks the college library should organize training programs, workshops and seminars on utilization of e-resources to create awareness among faculty and students, along with this libraries should provide proper infrastructure to users to access N-List & other e-resources.

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