

N-LIST E- Resources used in the Autonomous Colleges of Kamrup (M) District of Assam: A Study

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ABSTRACT

In the academic community of higher education, N-LIST plays an important role. N-LIST program is useful to the college libraries. The e-resources are available under various Consortia. The e-resources of N-LIST help information seekers in the academic community in various ways. These resources are mostly used by the UG students and faculty of various colleges in India. This paper will discuss the use and awareness of NLIST e-resources among the students and faculty members of the autonomous colleges of Kamrup (M). The study will also highlight the problems faced by the users.

KEYWORDS: N-LIST, E- Resources, Autonomous Colleges, Libraries, Consortia.

INTRODUCTION

The advancement of ICT has influenced the people of academic community to a large extent. The traditional libraries gradually move towards digitization. The sources of information are available through electronic devices. The information seekers mostly prefer the online/ electronic resources due to its various advantages. The e-resources includes the electronic version of books, journals, newspaper etc. In higher education system E- resources are available through various library consortia. One of such sources of e-resources is N-LIST.

N-LIST – National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content is a programme for higher education institution which is executed by INFLIBNET center. In 2010, the INFLIBNET center introduce N-LIST for the college libraries. Users can access the scholarly publication through N-LIST. It includes e-journals, e-books for the user community.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Mulimani(2024) in the article N-LIST: empowering academia and fostering inclusive knowledge access has highlights on various aspects of NLIST including the components and their usefulness, responsibilities the beneficiaries, importance of NLIST etc. The primary beneficiaries include university, technical institutions,

government and government aided colleges, students, researchers, librarians, academic institutions, monitoring agencies for colleges etc. It serves as a catalyst for engagement and information literacy.

Patil (2022) in his paper the role of colleges and INFLIBNET Centre to access e- resources of N-LIST programme highlights on the finding that a total no. of 6176 colleges are registered under N-LIST . 64.75% of colleges are active. The Maharashtra have maximum number of active colleges ie. 19.6% and Chandigarh have least number of registered colleges. No colleges in Daman & Diu state registered with N-LIST. The active users of all active colleges are 616358 and the ratio of active users to beneficiary colleges is 154.12. The percentage of active colleges are differed from the percentage of registered colleges.

Aswathi & Sajna (2021) in their article “ awareness and use of N-LIST e- resources among post graduate students in autonomous colleges of Kerala”. Finding of the study highlights that 79.6% of users were aware of N-LIST where as 20.3% were unaware. Among the college students N-LIST is popular for e- resources. Lack of technical knowledge, providing irrelevant information, language barrier, lack of updated information are some of the problems that are faced by users while accessing N-LIST e- resources. The students use N-LIST for preparation of projects/ dissertations and updating knowledge. The users are dependent on N-LIST e- resources for improving their learning outcomes and for updating themselves in their field of specialisation.

According to Dhuri & Lobo (2021) in their paper “N-LIST E-Resources: A Major Boon to The User Community During Covid-19 Pandemic Era: A Study” has discussed that the importance of having N-LIST e-resources, the crucial role played during the pandemic era in fulfilling the information needs of the users and the satisfaction level of the users. The e-resources provided under N-LIST consortium contributed to the demands of the college library users as the vast collection of e-resources can be accessed from anywhere and at any time through remote access.

Panda (2021) the web and the internet are constantly influencing the development of new modes of scholarly communication. Users can access e-resources at anytime from anywhere. The UGC-MHRS initiated the NLIST programme to provide selected e-journals and e-books to the registered colleges in India. Process and Refreezing is the process of student became confident on usages of e- resources.

Belsore (2019) in the article Use of N-LIST program for E- resources and other e- resources to Higher Education Development through Internet reveals that modern services are provided to users by libraries. E- journals provides opportunities to access scholarly information. It is regarded as global information highways.

Kaushal & Chakravarty (2019) in this paper explains the usage of NLIST resources among the students and faculty members. The statistical test has been applied and the interference have been drawn for identifying the quality of NLIST e-resources for aiming users’ academic pursuits and learning outcome.

Saikia (2017) in the article Use and awareness about N-list e-resources by the graduate students of Mariani college, J.B.College and C.K.B Commerce College of Jorhat District, Assam: A Study discussed that ICT infrastructure encourages users to use e-resources in a wide range NLIST provides scholarly content in e-form at a lower price. It also focused on the use and awareness of N-LIST programme, its uses and other issues. It also highlights that 34% of students get the information of NLIST by the librarian, 21% from library orientation, 21% from self learning and 5% from friends. 49.18% users use NLIST for updating subject knowledge. 72.78% of users access NLIST from the

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college libraries and 5.57% search NLIST in café.. 31.47% of users access NLIST by the title whereas 18.03 % of users prefer Keyword for searching.

According to Gohain & Yadav (2014)in their article “ E-Resources for the college libraries in India: With reference to N-LIST initiative by INFLIBNET” discussed providing access to scholarly journals is a challenge for the library. To meet the problem of serial crisis as a result of rise in cost of journals much faster than the rate of inflation, proliferation in number of journals and the paucity of funds available to the libraries, the concept of library consortium has been emerged. Library consortium ensures online access to large number of journals at a limited cost. In this paper the concept of library consortium and various initiatives in India are discussed in brief. The paper discusses broadly about N-LIST Consortium, various resources available under N-LIST, the copyright and fair use issue. related to the resources. The paper aims to make awareness among the libraries specially the college libraries of India towards N-LIST to enhance the quality of library services.

Sinha & Bhattacharjee (2013) in the article “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” discussed about the scenario of N-LIST programme implementation and status of the ICT and Internet literacy skills amongst the college library users.

In another paper entitled “E-resources in college libraries of Guwahati with reference to N-LIST: a study” discuss about the use and application of e-resources in college libraries of Guwahati. (Karmakar et. al. 2012)

Scope of the study:-The scope of the study is limited to the autonomous colleges of Kamrup (M) district of Assam.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study include the following.

- To find the awareness of N-LIST e resources among the users.
- To find out the reasons of utilising N-LIST resources.
- To find out the problems faced by users during searching N-LIST.

Methodology:- A set of questions includes in a questionnaire in search of all probable answers. Questionnaire distributed among the users. A total no. of 200 questionnaire distributed among the users of all selected colleges. Out of which 120 responded questionnaires. The sample used for data collection is random sampling.

Data Analysis And Interpretation:- (Time of Survey August 2023-August 2024)

The colleges covered to carry this paper are shown in Table No.1 along with the subscription year of N-LIST. There are four autonomous colleges in Kamrup (M) district of Assam.

Sl. No.	Name of Colleges	Year of Establishment	Year of N-LIST subscription
1.	B. Barooah College	1943	2011
2.	Arya Vidyapeeth College	1958	2012
3.	Dimoria College	1979	2016
4.	Sonapur College	1991	2013

Table No. 1 :- Autonomous Colleges of Kamrup (M)

Randomly the questionnaire distributed among the users. Altogether 60 questionnaires distributed among the teachers and 140 among the students. Out of which 66.7% of teachers and 57.1% of students respond to the questionnaire which is represent in Table No. 2 .

Designation of users	No. of questionnaire distributed	% of response receive
Teachers	60	66.7
Students	140	57.1
Total	200	123

Table No. 2: Designation of users

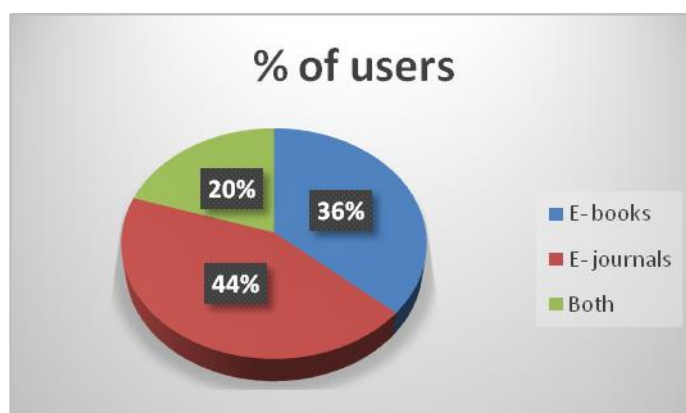
Out of the users responses 95% teachers and 62.5% students are aware about N-LIST (Table No.3).

Designation	% of users
Teachers	95%
Students	62.5%

Table -No. 3: N-LIST awareness among users

Both e-books and e- journals are available under N-LIST. 35.2% users use e-books, 42% use e-journals whereas 19.3% users use both e-books and e-journals. Table No. 4 and Figure No. 1 shows it.

E-resources	% of users
E- books	35.2
E- journals	42
Both	19.3

Table No: 4 Users of E-resources**Figure No. 1:** Use of E-resources

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Users use e- resources for various purposes. 61.4% uses it for teaching/ learning purpose, 61.3% use for writing articles, 53.4% uses for updating knowledge and 56.8% users access it for preparing assignment as shown in **Table No. 5** and Figure No. 2

Purpose of using N-LIST	%. of users
Teaching/Learning Purpose	61.4
Writing Articles	61.3
Updating knowledge	53.4
Preparing assignment	56.8

Table No. 5: Purpose for utilising N-LIST

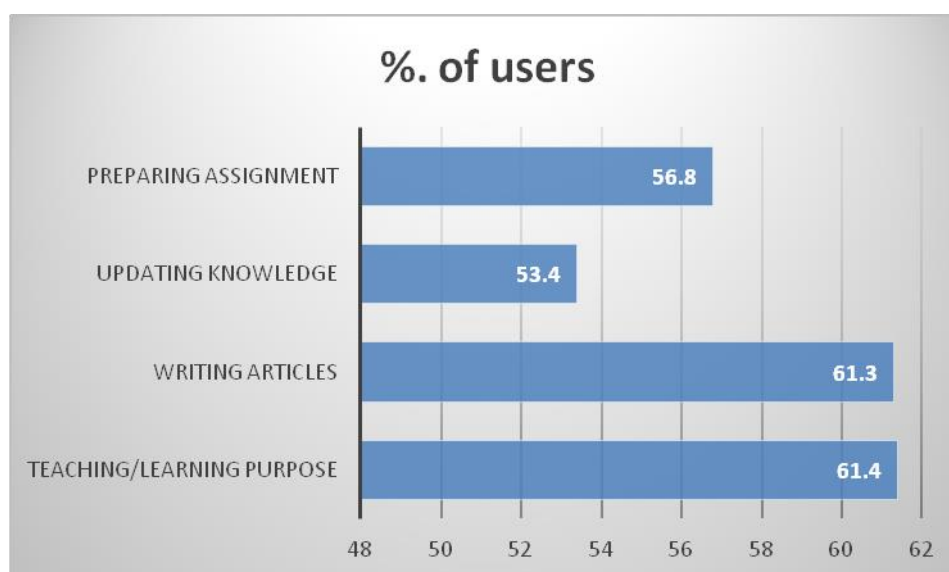


Figure No. 2: Purpose for utilising N-LIST

Out of the NLIST users 36.3% lies in the age group of 21-30 years, 13.6% users are between age group 31-40 years, 18.1% users are in the age group of 41-50 years, 7.9% users are in the 51-60 years of age and 20.4% users are below 21 years of age (Table No.6).

Table No. 6: Age group of users

Age group	% of users
21-30	36.3
31-40	13.6
41-50	18.1
51-60	7.9
Below 21	20.4

While searching the N-LIST resources users faced various problems. Out of the total responses, 51.1 % users faced the problem of poor internet connectivity which is the highest problems faced by the users, 34% users mark power

failure as one of the problems, 29.5% users faced some technical problems them while searching online information in their libraries.14.8% says required information are not available whereas 13.6% users marks availability of limited no. of computers as one of the problems while searching the N-LIST resources.

These are shown in **Table No. 7**

Name of problems	% of users
Power failure	34
Technical problems	29.5
Poor Internet Connectivity	51.1
Required information are not available	14.8
Limited numbers of computers	13.6

Table No. 7: Problems arises during N-LIST resources searching

As shown in Table No.8 31.8% of users are highly satisfied, 26.1% of users are satisfied, 30.7% users mark satisfaction level as average whereas 7.9% users are not satisfied with the resources of N-LIST.

Table No. 8: Satisfaction level of N-LIST users

Satisfaction level	% of users
Highly satisfied	31.8
Satisfied	26.1
Average	30.7
Not satisfied	7.9

FINDINGS

The following are the major findings of the study.

- Most of the colleges subscribe N-LIST for mor than 10 years
- Less number of students are aware about N-LIST resources.
- Students use N-LIST for preparing assignments.
- Faculties are using N-LIST resources for teaching/ learning purpose as well as writing articles etc.
- Most of the users age lies between age group of 21-30
- The library professional makes the user aware about N-LIST by arranging Awareness Programme.
- Most of the users use e-journals among the resources available under N-LIST.

CONCLUSION

INFLIBNET provides N-LIST for easy access of information for the user community. It has covered a wide area of information. The availability of resources and its accessibility at anytime from anywhere marks its one of its most beneficiary aspects. It is quite popular among students and faculties of most of the colleges of India. The orientation programme organised by library authority makes the students and faculties more aware about importance and uses of NLIST. Today most of the colleges from every corner of India subscribe NLIST which helps the users in preparing projects, research paper, assignments, class notes, to get update information in their respective subject

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area. But to increase the use of the facility proper development of infrastructural facilities and training should be provided by the college libraries to their users at a regular interval.

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